





Signatures at the Solemn League & Covenant, 1643.

Signatures at the Test Oath, 1681.

Bruce
 Wm E. David Gaybr
 Will. Hays
 Jas. Strachane
 Gilbert Simpson
 A. B. C. Fundid

Jo: Wood
 And: Anthinlock
 Mrs: Flooker
 Wilsons

Witt: Moses Arch
 D. Al: Edward
 W. Hoxman
 Mr John Anthinlocks
 J. Hiddleton
 T. G. Gonsone

ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS.

SELECTIONS FROM THE MINUTES
OF THE PRESBYTERIES
OF
ST. ANDREWS AND CUPAR,

M.DC.XLI.—M.DC.XCVIII.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED FOR THE ABBOTSFORD CLUB.

MD.CCC.XXXVII.

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TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE ABBOTSFORD CLUB
BY
GEORGE R. KINLOCH.

THE

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M.DCCC.XXXVII.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTICE.

ALTHOUGH the local ecclesiastical Records of Scotland afford much valuable and interesting information regarding the early polity and discipline of the Church, the peculiar and anomalous jurisdiction of its judicatures, the moral and religious state of the country, and the manners, customs, and superstitions of the people, yet they have been either intirely overlooked, or only partially examined. As the earlier Registers of the PRESBYTERIES OF ST. ANDREWS AND CUPAR comprise a mass of important and curious matter relating to these subjects, I have been induced to select from them the following Extracts, as a contribution to the Abbotsford Club.

It may be remarked, that many of the old Church Registers have been either lost or destroyed ; and those that still remain have been too long allowed to lie in obscurity, subject to almost certain destruction from the careless manner in which they are preserved, being in many instances unbound, stained with damp, torn, or otherwise materially injured.¹ It is hoped, therefore, that the present volume may not only serve as an epitome of the Registers of these two Presbyteries, during a momentous period of Church history, but may also direct the attention of individuals to the general nature and importance of our ecclesiastical records, and lead them to a careful examination of their contents, and to contribute to their preservation.

¹ It is certainly matter of regret that they should remain in this state, and it would be a national benefit were an Act passed for the transmission of the more ancient volumes to some Public Repository.

INTRODUCTORY NOTICE.

The earliest record of the PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS, now extant, commences on the 20th October 1641, and terminates on the 12th November 1656. The previous Registers have been lost. From an inscription on the volume (now forming the *second* of the series,) beginning in 1656, and ending 28th September 1687, it is called, "the *fourth* volume of the Register of the Presbyterie of St. Andrewes." It is evident, therefore, that in 1656 three older volumes were in existence. One of them, termed the *first*, appears to have been recovered by the Presbytery on 1st March 1654, for, "the quhilk day, the Clerk did produce the *first* volume of the Presbyteries Register, quhilk was accepted thankfullie, and "the person quho refounded the same promised to be thankfullie satisfied." But at the Revolution all the volumes were missing. In 1693, however, the register (which is now the *second* volume) was recovered from Mr. Alexander Fairweather, 'Bibliothecarius in the New College,' who was sometime Clerk to the Exercise of St. Andrews during Episcopacy: And in 1698 the Register from 1641 to 1656, was discovered by Mr. Alexander Sheilds, minister of St. Andrews, "among the bookes of Mr. James Wemyss, late "Principall of Leonards Colledge, with which the Presbitrie were well satisfied," and gave Mr. Sheilds "heartie thanks for his diligence and care in "recovering the said Register." But the two earlier volumes appear to have been never recovered. As they must have related to the Episcopal period from 1600 to 1638, it is not improbable that they had been either secreted or destroyed by the Episcopal Clergy, who, on their deposition, generally carried off the church registers and utensils.

On the re-establishment of the Presbyterian religion in 1690, the Presbyteries of St. Andrews and Cupar, owing to the paucity of ordained ministers, were united into one judicature, and remained so until April 1693, when they were disjoined, as there was then "a compétent number "of ministers to each of the two Presbitries;" and as "both were desirous "to be disjoined again, and to act separatelie by themselves." The first meeting of the Presbytery of St. Andrews, as a separate judicature, was accordingly held at St. Andrews on the 18th April 1693, on which day the *third* volume commences, and continues till 28th December 1698.

In the second volume, several blanks occur after 1662, which appear to have been intentionally left for the insertion of the proceedings of the Diocesan Synod, which were usually engrossed in the Registers of the various Presbyteries within the Diocese. In other respects the Registers of this Presbytery are in good preservation.

The Registers of the PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR have not been so carefully preserved. The earliest volume, which bears the Greek motto, *Σὺν Θεῷ*, on the first page, commences 6th October 1646, and ends 20th September 1660; all the previous records having been lost. A great hiatus occurs during Episcopacy, from 1662 to 1690, and it does not appear that the records of that period were delivered up at the Revolution. When this Presbytery was disjoined from that of St. Andrews in 1693, a new Register in quarto was commenced, which terminates on the 11th February 1702; after which the Records are regular and perfect. The first volume, from which alone extracts are given, is in excellent preservation, and contains much valuable and curious information; while the second possesses very little interesting matter, being mostly occupied with the details of settling ministers, and of censuring church delinquents.

The lithographed fac-similes of the signatures of those members of the Presbytery of St. Andrews, who subscribed the Solemn League and Covenant in 1643, or took the Test in 1681, are made from the originals adhibited to copies of those documents inserted in the Registers at the time. The fac-simile of the town of Cupar in 1642, is taken from a drawing made in that year by Mr. James Gordon, minister of Rothiemay, on his manuscript map of the County of Fife, preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates.

G. R. K.

EDINBURGH,
1st February, 1837.

THE PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS.

1641-1698.

THE PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS.

AT ST. ANDROS, OCTOBER 20, 1641.

Inglis in Forgan.—Mr. David Forrett¹ declared, that yet he could not gett David Inglis broght to give obedience to the sentence of the Presbyterie, for his consultation with that woman suspe&t of witchcraft. He is appointed to compeir befor the Presbyterie the next day.

November 17.—Hamilton, advyse.—Mr. George Hamilton² requyred the advyse of the Presbyterie, how they fould proceid in thair fessioun with a fewar and ane eldar, both in his paroch, quho, on the Lords day in the kirkyeard, did breake out in ill wordes, till they came to lies befor the congregation. The Presbyterie thocht, for taking away the scandall, they fould confesse thair fault befor the congregation on the Saboth, in thair owne feates.

November 29.—Borthwick to attend with the Comissioners.—The quhilk day the Presbyterie mett occasionallie, being advertifed by the Moderatour. Their wer produced by the Moderatour two letters direct to the Presbyterie, one subscryved by the whole Commiffioners appointed by our Par-

¹ Minister at Forgan ; transported to Kilconquhar 27th May, 1646.

² Minister at Newburn ; translated to Pittenweeme in February 1650 ; and deposed at the restoration of Episcopacy.

liament, for attending the Parliament of England, and another letter from the Comission of the Generall Assemblie, both of them earnestlie intreating the Presbyterie that they wold appoint ther brother Mr. Eleazor Borthwick, Minister at Leuchars, to goe to England with the foirlaid Comissioners, for discharging to them and ther attendants all ministeriall duties, shewing severall weghtie reasons therfor. Compeared lykewayes diverse gentlemen from the paroch of Leuchars, earnestlie intreating ther case might be considered, seeing they have bein destitute of a resident minister, for the most part these some yeirs past, and so that they wold not appoint ther Minister to leave them now. The said Mr. Eleazor shew severall reasons, quhairfor it was not expedient that burden should be laid vpon him. All quhilk reasons, on all partes, being seriouflic considered, the Presbyterie thocht the request of the Comissioners indeclyneable, and thairfor appoints the said Mr. Eleazor to attend that charge.

Januar 5, 1642.—Relict of John Trewman.—The Presbyterie received a supplication from the reliēt of John Trewman, cruellie execute by the Depute of Ireland, for avowing our cause and Covenant, and his wife and fyve children spoyled of all ther meanes at the Deputes direction, earnestlic beseeching them to consider her case, and to let her and her children be supplied out of the christian benevolence of ther parochiners. It was appointed, that her case should be recommended by evrie Minister to ther severall congregations the nixt Saboth, and the Sabboth thereafter appointed for collecting quhat they wold bestow for her releif, and the same to be brought in to the Presbyterie.

Februar 2.—Lady Fainton.—Mr. Robert Blair¹ declared, that he cold nocht have occasion to goe to my Lady Fainton throug the intemperance of the weather. The Moderatour declared, he had bein at her, and dealt with her, bot fand her rather more obstinate than any other change. Mr. Samuell Rutherford and Mr. James Bruce² appointed to deall with her, and report ther diligence the nixt day.

Februar 16.—Lady Fainton.—These appointed to deale with my Lady

¹ Minister at St. Andrews.

² Minister at Kingsbarns.

Fainton, declared they had bein at her, and reafoned with her, and in reafoning broght her to diverfe abfurditie, bot, for any thing they could fie, faw fmall or no hopes of change, or that by fuch dealing fhe fhuld be broght to quyte her errorrs.

Beggars children.—Mr. Robert Traill and Mr. David Monro¹ requyred the judgment of the Prefbyterie, That quhairas beggars coming to ther paroches, and bringing foorth children thair, and defires to have ther children baptized by them; quho, being asked a warrand that they ar married, they can produce none bot ther owne word, and, being tryed in ther knowledge of the grounds of religion, they fand them altogether ignorant, not having the verie letter of the Beleife,—If they fall baptize thefe children or not? The Prefbyterie advyfed them not to baptize them.

Releife of thofe chafed out of Ireland.—The quhilk day was produced befor the Prefbyterie ane A& given out by the Lords of Counfell, requyring and defireing all Prefbyteries, Minifters, and Elders within this kingdome, to deale with ther feveral paroches, to contribute for the help of thefe quho are chafed out of Ireland, and robbed of all ther goods by the crueltie of the Rebels; quhilk was aggried vnto, and all convenient diligence appointed to be vfed for that effect.

Februar 23.—Lawmonth chafed by Rebels.—Compeired John Lawmonth,² fonne to vmquhile Mr. Allane Lawmonth, fometye minifter at Scoonie, fhewing to the brethren how he was chafed out of Ireland by the crueltie of the Rebels, hardlie efcaping with his life, and is deftitute of any meanes for mantaineing him, or his wife and children. The Prefbyterie appointed to give him 40 lb. of that quhilk remaines of the laft collektion for the reli&t of Johne Trewman; and, quhen the generall collektion is gathered, that he be recomendet to the diftributors thair of.

March 23.—Admiffion of Bennett to Kylrenie.—The Prefbyterie mett at Kylrinnie for admiffion of Mr. Robert Bennett, quhair the Moderator did preach, Is. 6. 9.

Inglis referred to ther Seflion.—David Inglis being called, compeired, and acknowledged befor the Prefbyterie, that quhat he did in going to that woman was out of ignorance, not thinking it to be fuch a fault as now he

¹ Minifters at Ely and Kilconquhar.

² He had been Minifter at Temple-Patrick in Ireland.

saw it to be, and now referred himselfe to the Presbyterie for his censure. They referred him to ther Session.

Woman fyled in Abercrombie Paroch.—Mr. Robert Wilkie¹ declared, that they had already wared, out of the poores boxe, fiftie merks upon that poore woman and her children in ther paroch, fyled by her husband with the French poxe,² but she is no better, because they can have none to waite upon her; and that now they are dealeing with a woman in Perth, quho hes vndertaken to cure them in a short tyme, and to find caution so to doe, bot will have ane hundreth merks in hand, quhilk they are not able to give; and therfor desired the Presbyterie to find some course for the same, how it may be done, that the poore woman and children be not lost. Because it behooved to be presentlie advanced, the Presbyterie desired these of Abercrombie to find some way for that, and ordained everie paroch to pay so much, as they pay to the burfare of Theologie, for ther releife.

Apryle 21.—Sir Johne Scotts Carte.—Anent the reference to the severall Presbyteries concerning Sir Johne Scotts Geographie Cart, all exhorted to vse diligence therein.³

May 4.—Carte.—To the end greater diligence may be vsed in drawing vp the bounds of this Presbyterie for Sir Johne Scotts Carte, the Presbyterie have divyded the same in these severall quarters: *First*, The paro-

¹ Minister at Abercrombie.

² This was, perhaps, a disease which, in Scotland, is called *Sivvens*, and is viewed as of the venereal kind. It was so loathsome, and supposed to be so contagious, that not many years ago, some infected persons were publicly denounced from the pulpit of a parish in the north, and all intercourse with them forbidden.

³ The publication of the large Atlas of Scotland, by Bleau at Amsterdam, in 1655, was an undertaking originally commenced by Timothy Pont, and carried on by Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch, and his son Mr. James Gordon, minister at Rothiemay, at the expense, it is said, of Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet, Director of the Chancery. Sir John procured an order of the Generall Assembly, directing such ministers as were desired by the persons employed in making the surveys, to aid them in their accounts of the respective shires. The original map of Fife, with the Friths of Forth and Tay, drawn "by James Gordon, fil. R. G. de Straloch, 1642," is preserved in the Advocates Library, Edinburgh. It is possessed of additional interest, as the very neat and accurate plans of the towns of St. Andrews and Cupar drawn in the corners, were not engraved along with the reduced copy of the map for Bleau's Atlas.

chines of Ferrie, Forgan, and Leuchars, and for drawing vp the bounds of these, did appoint Scottscraig, Naughton, and Pitlethie; *secound*, St. Andrewes, Dininnow, Kembok, St. Leonards, for these, Kembok, Kinkell, Piterthie; *third*, The whole coast fyde, and for them, Barnes, Balfour, Randerston, Mr. Robert Lamie, Lundie, Ardrosse, Kincaig: and these appointed to vse diligence heirin.

Salt pannes and salmon fishing.—These quho have falt pannes or salmond fishing in ther congregations, are appointed to vse all meanes with them, quhairby they may be kept from breaking the Lords day quho worke therin.

The Presbyterie, being informed, that the greatest part of the Comissioners to the parliament of England are to come home, and fearing least ther brother Mr. Eleazar Borthwicke be solicted to stay, have appointed a letter to be written to him, desyring him to retorne with the first, for diuerse weightie reasons.

June 8.—Abuse at Penny Brydells.—The quhilk day the Presbyterie taking to ther consideration, and being informed of the great abuse that is in many parts of this Presbyterie at Penny Brydells, It is ordained, that all the ministers within the bounds of this Presbyterie make intimation to all paities quho are to be maried, that they neither exceid in number nor price, the ordinance of the Justice of peace, and that he take the parties enacted to give obedience therto, vnder paine of loseing ther penaltie.

These quho were appointed to view the bounds of this Presbyterie, for Sir John Scotts Carte, ar appointed to vse diligence therin.

June 22.—Grosse faults.—It was regrated by diuerse brethren, that some grosse faults, such as strikeing, and grosse drunkards, did escape without censure, for want of a generall ordour for all of that kynd; quhilk is referred to the next day.

July 20.—James Lennox, Thomas Lennox, and Johne Wanne, salmond fishers in the paroch of Leuchars, enacted, with ther owne consent, never to shutt a nett on the Sabboth, vnder the paine of twentie punds, *toties quoties*.

Januar 18, 1643.—Norie.—Mr. Robert Norie, Profeffor of Humanitie

in St. Leonards College, discharged to preach any in these bounds, till he produce before the Presbyterie his testimoniall of the passing of his tryalls, which he is appointed to doe the first day of meeting by the morne.

Januar 26.—Norie.—Compeired Mr. Robert Norie, and declared, that the reason of his not coming to the Presbyterie, and shewing his testimoniall, did not proceed from any contempt, but because at his entrie ther he was absolutlie discharged by his patron to preach any, nor was he certaine of his residence in that place; but at the removall of Mr. Williame Bruce, quho was a helper with the Principall, he preached sometymes at the Principalls desire; but now is willing to produce the same, and did so. The said Mr. Robert being posed for uttering somethings in a sermon ther, seeming to reflect vpon the proceedings for the publicke cause, which was judged so much the more dangerous, as being delyvered to such an auditoire, as namelie, “That we ought not to speak of God but to God, nor of Kings but for Kings, in prayer; but such is the corruption of men, that Kings, for the most part, have more critickes then good subjects, that takes vpon them to censure not only ther publicke actions, but even ther private and domestike affaires, yea ther verie thoughts and intentions.” The first part quhairof, to these wordes, “who takes vpon them to censure,” etc., he acknowledged he spake. The Presbyterie having enquired quhat his text was, and finding no coherence at all betuixt this speech of his and any purpose in the wordes, they thought it seemed they were spoken out of an evill mynd and intention, and therfor ordained Mr. Samuell Ruthfird and Mr. James Wood¹ to confer with him privatelie, and to try his mynd, and report to the Presbyterie the next day, and in the meanetyme discharges him of preaching till that be cleared.

Feberwar.—Norie.—These appointed to speake with Mr. Robert Norie declared, that he refuses to acknowledge the wordes he spake to be scandalous, seeing he spake of no particular, only he is sorie that the Presbyterie should [have] taken offence at them; quhilk the Presbyterie judged not satisfactorie, and so ordaines thame, with Mr. Robert Blair, yet to deale farther with him.

¹ Professor of theology in the University of St. Andrews.

March 15.—Act for publick and commoun faults revived.—The Presbyterie feriouſlie conſidering the great abounding of the ſcandalous finnes of drunkennes, curſeing and ſwearing, notwithstanding of the A& made heirtofoir againſt them, of the deatt March 24, 1641, and rateſied by the Provinciall Aſſembly nixt following, doe appoint and ordaine that the foirſaid A& be revived, and intimate in the ſeverall kirkes within the bounds of this Presbyterie, and that brethren, at the intimation therof, make choiſe of ſuch texts of Scripture as ar fitteſt to worke in the heartes of people a deteſtation of the foirſaid finnes; And lykewayes, the Presbyterie ordaines that the ſeverall Seſſions within ther bounds be carefull to ſie the foirſaid finnes dewlie cenſured; viz. for the finne of drunkennes, that thoſe quho heirtofoir have beene knowen to be ſcandalous becauſe of it, fall, for the verie firſt fault, declare ther repentance befor the Congregation; and theſe quho have not been remarked to have been ſcandalous of befor fall, for the firſt fault, declare ther repentance befor the Seſſion, and for the ſecond befor the Congregation; and if any, after the ſecond or thrid cenſure, fall continue in this groſſelie ſcandalous finne, that they be debarred from the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, ay and while they give evident ſignes of ther repentance and reformation. And for the other finne of curſeing and ſwearing, the Presbyterie ordaines that everie miniſter within this bounds be exactlie carefull for the repreſſeing and cenſuring therof, be takeing ſuch courſe with advyſe of the Seſſion as ſalbe found fitteſt for the ſame, not only by enjoyneing vnto thoſe quho, after the firſt and ſecond admonitions, ſalbe found to goe on in the finne, that they declare ther publicke repentance in the face of the Congregation, but alſo that ſome pecuniall mulct be inflicted, according to the qualitie of the perſon. And lykewayes, the lyke cenſure for theſe quho abſent themſelves from the appointed dyetts of catechiſeing twyſe in end, without ſome relevant excuſe. And that all elders be advertiſed to deprehend ſuch as they fall find guiltie of flyteing, raileing, miſcalling any of ther neighbours, although ther be no plaint of partie, and ordaines that ſuch fall ſatiſſie as if the partie did complaine: As alſo, that they be faithful dilators of theſe quho, without relevant excuſe, abſent themſelves from publicke worſhip on the Lords day, as well of theſe quho profane the ſame by workeing.

Faults publicke thogh betweene Man and Wife, to be publicklie censured.—Anent the question proponed by Mr. Colen Adams¹ concerning a scandalous disorder within his charge, betwixt a man and his wife, quho were outragiously blaspheming and curseing in such sort that the neighbours were conveneing about the doores, he himselfe being eare and eye witnes of this great disorder; quho having dilated the same to the Session, and one of parties compeired before them, and convicted of the abuse, said miscarriage, and sentenced: Yet one member of the Session did, after the sentence, oppose the censure, alledging, that none must meddle betweene man and wife. His question was, what ought to be done in this case? The answer of the Presbyterie is, That it is out of all question, that the parties dilated, thogh man and wife, yet ought to be censured publicklie seeing it brake out in so publicke a way. As also, that quhosoever opposed, after the sentence ought to be summoned befor the Presbyterie; bot the latter part heirof is delayed by the requeist of the said Mr. Colen made to the Presbyterie.

Sandielands.—These quho were appointed to try of David Sandelands, whither or not, quhen he did cover his head in the kirk of Pittenweeme, at the reiding of the Warning and Declaration, quhen all others were discovered, was done by him out of contempt or not, declares, that his answer was, That he did it not out of contempt. The Presbyterie thocht that at least he sould declare that befor them, and appointed them yet to speake to him for that effect.

Marche 22.—Salt Pannes.—Anent the reference made the last day concerning the salt pannes, Mr. Arthur Myrton² declared that the greeves³ were cited to be heir. The greeve of Barnes pans shew that his pannes rests from fixe on the Sabboth morning till fixe on Monday morning. The Presbyterie desired he might stryve to keepe the whole Sabboth more pun&uallie. Lykewayes, Mr. John Melvill⁴ declared that the pannes in Pittenweeme doe rest all the Sabboth.

¹ Minister of Anstruther-Easter.

² Mr. Arthur Myrton or Morton was minister of Crail. He wrote a Treatise called the Touchstone of Conversion, 12mo. Lond. 1642.

³ Overseers.

⁴ Minister of Pittenweem; died before 8 August 1649.

Marche 29.—Recomendatioun from the Lords of Counsell.—This day there was a letter presented to the Presbyterie direct from the Lords of his Majesties Privie Counsell, to Sir Thomas Myrton of Cambo, one of there number, desyreing him to requyre there concurrence and assistance for dealing with such within the bounds of this Presbyterie quho are able to advance any money for a tyme, for the supplie of the armie sent out heir to Ireland, for the suppressing of the Irish rebels, till the Parliament of England, quho are obleished to mantaine them, can have tyme to furnish them; which money the said Parliament of England obleishes themselves shortlie to repay. The Presbyterie does nominate the Laird of Scottiscraig, Colonell Lumisdell, and Mr. Robert Blair for that effect, and desires them to vse all expedition heirin, and they to joyne to themselves any other minister quhom they know to be of greatest credite with the persons with quhom they are to deale.

Apryle 19.—This day the Moderator, in name of the Ministers of the Presbyterie, did, at there command and direction, subscribe the band for the lone for the releife of Ireland, for the sowme of fyve hundreth pounds sterling, to be advanced by them with all possible diligence.

Apryle 26.—Act for Penny Brydells, Baptismes, and Contractes.—The Presbyterie perceiving the great abuse that still is among the most part of the comons, by gathering of multitudes to penny brydells, notwithstanding of the severall actes made against the same, both by Justice of Peace and Presbyterie, it is appointed that ministers false peremptor in prosecuting the tenour of the act of the Justice of Peace, and that at the contracting they shall take the parties enacted in the Session bookes, that they shall not exceed the number designed ther, vnder the paine of losing ther penaltie. And because of the great abuse that is lykewayes among them by convening multitudes at baptismes and contracts, the ministers and sessions are appointed to take strict order for restraining these abuses, that in number they exceed not fixe or seven. As also ordaines that the hostlers quho mak such feists false censured by the sessions. And the Presbyterie to crave particular account of ministers and sessions ther diligence heirin, that if they be found remisse, they may be censured ac-

cordinglie, and ordaines this act to be intimate in everie pulpitt of this Presbyterie the nixt Lords day fave one.

May 3.—Vniversitie to subscriue the Covenant.—All the members within the Vniversitie, masters and students, are appointed to subscriue the Covenant againe, and Mr. Samuell Rutherford, Rector, is appointed, befor the subscription therof, to have some explication of quhat points in it may be difficle to these of younger yeirs and meaner capacities.

May 24.—Law divorced.—The Presbyterie declares that Jonat Law, divorced from Thomas Murray, befor the Comissers of Edinburgh, may marie another man.

July 12.—Sandielands.—Compeired befor the Presbyterie Sir James Sandielands younger of St. Monnance, and is desired to declare whither or not he adheres to the Croffe Petition; who desired that some might speake to him privatelie the beginning of the nixt weeke, at which tyme he fall give satisfaction. The Presbyterie have appointed the Moderator, Mr. David Monro, Mr. Johne Melvill, Mr. Robert Traill, the Lairds of Moncreiff and Ardross, James Airth in Pittenweeme, to meitt ther and heare his declaration, that if he passes from it he fall come befor the Presbyterie and declare the same, and if he adheres to it that then he salbe summoned to compeer befor the Presbyterie.

Mr. Colein Adams, James Bruce, Robert Traill, James Wood, and Robert Blair appointed to goe to Craill on Thuresday, and speake some witches apprehended ther.

July 26.—Sandielands.—These quho were appointed to speake to Sir James Sandielands, declared they had not received satisfaction concerning his passing from the Croffe Petition; quho being called, compeired not. The Presbyterie have appointed him to be summoned to compeer befor the approaching Generall Assemblie.

Netts setting in the Lords Day.—The Presbyterie appoints ther Comissioners to the Generall Assemblie to crave ther advyce concerning the setting of netts for herring vpon the Lords Day.

Comissioners to be payed.—The Presbyterie have appointed, that hencefoorth the Comissioners to the Generall Assemblie salbe payed befor the Assemblie of ther charges by the Ministers of the Presbyterie, till another

courſe be found, and appoints the Moderator to borrow ane hundreth pounds for this tyme.

Auguſt.—*Delay of burning witches.*—The Prefbyterie have appointed Mr. George Dewar,¹ Mr. Robert Wilkie, and Mr. Robert Bennett, to deale with the Judges and Bailleis of Anſtruther, that they may delay the execution of ſome witches they have in hands, till the Prefbyterie appoint ſome to ſpeake with them.

Auguſt 16.—It is thoght fitting, that miniſters within this Prefbyterie, doe advertiſe the Prefbyterie befor any witches with them be put to execution.

Mr. David Monro, the Moderator, Mr. James Wood, Mr. Robert Wilkie, to goe to Anſtruther-Weſter, to ſie the execution of ſome witches ther; and that they goe to Anſtruther-Eaſter and Craill, to ſpeake with ſome quho are apprehended for witches.

Monuments of ſuperſtition.—The Prefbyterie being informed, that ther are ſome monuments of ſuperſtition vpon the houſe of Pitcullo, in the paroch of Leuchars, have appointed Mr. Johne Barron,² and Mr. David Forreſt, to goe to the ſaid houſe, and take notice quhat monuments of that kynd are thervpon, and report to the Prefbyterie the nixt day.

Auguſt 23.—The Moderator, Mr. James Bruce,³ and Mr. James Wood, are appointed to ſpeake to theſe quho are apprehended for witches in St. Andros; and to attend the execution of two witches vpon Fryday nixt.

Millars.—The millars of Peikie, Parke, Kenlie, and Kingsbarne mylnes, appointed to be ſummoned to compeir befor the Prefbyterie the nixt day, for the breake of the Lords day, by making ther mylnes to goe vpon it.

Obedience to the act of Seſſion.—A widow man in the Paroch of Dinninow, quho hes a woman living in the houſe with him, with quhom he is ſlandered for fornication, is appointed to obey the act of the Seſſion in putting her out of his houſe, otherwayes to ſummond him to compeir befor the Prefbyterie.

¹ Miniſter of Anſtruther-Weſter; depoſed 21 Nov. 1644, for immorality and malignancy.

² Miniſter of Kemback; he was at the ſame time ſecond maſter, and afterwards Proveſt of the Old College of St. Andrews.

³ Miniſter of Kingsbarns.

August 30.—Millars.—The millars of Peikie, Parke, Kenlie, and Kingsbarne mylnes, compeired, acknowledged ther breake of the Lords day; the Presbyterie referres ther censure to the severall kirk seffions quher they dwell.

Superstitious monuments.—Mr. David Forrett shew that he and Mr. Johne Barron wer at the house of Pitcullo, and declares ther are vpon the frontispeece of the house some monuments of superstition. The Presbyterie appoints a letter to be writen to the Lord Burghley, intreating him to give order for demolishing all monuments of that kynd.

Advyce.—Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. Robert Traill, and the Moderator, appointed to goe to Anstruther-Wester, to conferre with some quho are apprehended for witches ther; and to give ther advyce to the Judges if the dilationes against Isobell Dairfie be sufficient for apprehending and trying of her.

Mr. David Forrett, Mr. James Wood, and Mr. Robert Traill, appointed to speake to some laitelic apprehended in St. Andros, to sie if they can bring them to any confession.

September 6.—Advyce.—Mr. Robert Blair, Mr. Robert Traill, Mr. James Wood, and the Laird of Cambo, appointed to meitt at Craill and give ther advyce, whither the presumptions and dilations against two in that towne be sufficient for apprehending and tryall.

Gudlad in St. Andros.—One in St. Andros quho rode vpon the Lords day to Burghley, under pretence of going to a Communion, bot did it indeid to deale with my Lord Burghley, for interposing his moyen for releasing Margaret Balfour, now apprehended to be tryed for a witch, is appointed to satisfie as a breaker of the Lords day; and ordaines that finne also of dealing for such to be laid out befor him; and so is appointed to obey quhat the Sesssion fall enjoyne him to doe.

Slanderers and concealers.—The Presbyterie being informed that ther be some quho slander these for witches, against quhom ther is neither presumption nor dilation, appoints such to be censured by the Sesssions quher they remaine, as most notorious slanderers. As also ordaines such as conceales any presumption of any quho are apprehended, quhen it fall come to light, they are appointed to be censured by Sesssions also.

September 13.—Moreis for touching for the Cruells.—Johne Moreis, in the Paroch of Carnbie, appointed to compeir befor the Presbyterie the nixt day, for takeing vpon him to heale the Cruelles by touching them, as the seventh sonne of a woman.¹

The dilations against Helen Scheivis for a witch, being related to the Presbyterie, they gave ther advyce to apprehend and try her.

September 20.—Ministers to send out a man to the Armie.—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Committee of Estates, shewing ther desire that everie minister may send out a sojour to the present expedition, of which regiment, the Laird of Scottiscraig is appointed Colonell; quhairto the Presbyterie did heartilie acquiesce.

Moreis in Carnbie.—Johne Moreis, in the Paroch of Carnbie, acknowledging to the Presbyterie, that he, as the seventh sonne of a woman, touches for cureing the Cruells, being examined, and it being found that he did it ignorantlie, is discharged to vse that any more to any, vnder paine of Kirk censures.

October 11.—Advyce.—The Moderator and Mr. Arthur Myrton, are appointed to goe to Anstruther-Wester, vpon Fryday nixt, and give ther advyce to such Judges as salbe present ther concerning Isbell Dairfie, how shee salbe vsed in meate, drinke, sleepe, bed, and the lyke.

October 18.—Covenant.—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Commiffioners of the Generall Assemblie, with some copies of the solemne League and Covenant for reformation of Religion, the honour and happines of the King, and the peace and safetie of the thrie kingdomes of Scotland, England, and Ireland, requyreing the Presbyterie to vse all diligence for causeing the severall congregations subscribe and sweare the

¹ The gift of curing the *Cruels* or scrofula by the touch, was supposed to be an inherent prerogative of our Kings, who often put it in practice. Charles I. when he visited Scotland in 1633, on St. John's day, "heallit 100 persones of the cruellies or King's eivell, yong and olde." It would appear, however, that a *seventh* son, who is superstitiously believed to be endued by nature with *infallibility* as a *doctor*, also possessed this imaginary virtue. "It is manifest, by experience, that the seventh male child by iust order, (neuer a girle or wench being borne betweene,) doth heale only with touching (through a naturall gift) the King's evil: which is a speciall gift of God given to Kings or Queenes, as daily experience doth witness." LUP-
TON'S NOTABLE THINGS, *edit.* 8vo. 1631, p. 28.

fame. This day, the whole Presbyterie, ministers and elders, subſcryved the ſame, and appointed it to be read and explained in everie kirk of this Presbyterie by the miniſter; and the nixt Lords day thereafter, that it ſhall be ſolemnlie ſworne by all, with faſting and humiliation, and all maner of religious ſolemnities, according to the ordinance of the ſaids Comiſſioners, and thereafter to proceed with all convenient diligence to the ſubſcryving thereof by all.

November 15.—Blair complains of Lundie.—Mr. Robert Blair declared, that quhill he and his colleague, Mr. Andro Honyman,¹ with the Gudman of Kembok, and James Wood, baillic of St. Andros, being ſent by the Seſſion of St. Andros to Sir James Lundie, inhabitant in the ſaid citie, to deſire him to keepe the dyetts of the publicke worſhip of God, he having neir the ſpace of ane twelvemoneth deſerted the ſame, he was ſo fare from promiſeing amendement, that he behaved himſelfe injuriouſlie toward the ſaid Mr. Robert Blair, and quhen his hatt was in his hand, he put his on his head, and gave him a direct lie. The Presbyterie ordaines him to be ſummond to compeir befor them the nixt day.

Attend burning of witches.—Mr. Robert Blair, Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. Robert Traill, and Mr. James Wood, are appointed to goe to Craill on Fryday, and attend the execution of ſome witches; and give ther advyce to the Judges concerning the dilations againſt others, if they may be apprehendit and tryed.

November 29.—Covenant.—This day the Presbyterie received a letter from the Comiſſion of the Generall Aſſemblic, requyreing them to vrge all Engliſh in ther bounds to ſubſcryve the late League and Covenant, and to ſend over the names of all ſuch as refuſes or delayes to ſubſcryve to them, that they may be delyvered to the Engliſh Comiſſioners. They received alſo another letter, requyreing inſpection to be takin if all in ther owne paroches have ſubſcryved and ſworne the ſame, and to ſend over the names of refuſers or delayers to them. The Communion Rolles and Covenants, are appointed to be brought in to the Presbyterie this day moneth, to St. Andros.

¹ Miniſter at St. Andrews, and afterwards Biſhop of Orkney. He wrote a Survey of Napthali, and other controverſial works.

December 28.—Letter from Lord Balcarras—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Lord Balcarras, desiring that they wold appoint one of ther number to be minifter to his regiment of horfes. In regard they are alreadie engadged to furnifh the Erle of Lindfay his regiment of a minifter, and the Presbyterie of Cuper furnifh none, his Lordship is desired to have his recourfe to them for that effect.

Januar 11, 1644.—Lundie compeired.—Compeired Sir James Lundie, Knycht, quho, being pofed vpon the particular points contained in the lybell, acknowledged he had not beene in the church of St. Andros for the fpace of ane twelvemoneth, bot alledged he was not to blame, becaufe he could not have a feate in the kirk. As for giving a lie to Mr. Robert Blair, he denyes that, only being much provoked by the faid Mr. Robert, he faid, “If yee wer another man, Sir, I wold fay, yee lie.” The Presbyterie appoints Mr. Andro Honyman, the Gudman of Kembok, and James Wood, baillie of St. Andros, to be fummoned as witneffes in that buffines againe Wedinfday nixt, and warnes the faid Sir James *apud acta* to compeir the faid day to heare the witneffes examined.

The Presbyterie intreated ther brother Mr. James Bruce, to remember the Erle of Lindfay to give a generall comiffion for apprehending, trying, and judgeing of fuch as are or falbe dilated for witches within the Stewartrie.

Advyce for Witches.—The Presbyterie did appoint Mr. David Monro, Mr. Colein Adams, Robert Wilkie, Robert Traill, Arthur Myrton, Johne Melvill, minifters; Lathallen, James Airth, and Johne Alexander, ruling elders, to meitt with the Judges at Pittenweeme, and give ther advyce, if vpon the dilations againft Chriftane Dote in St. Minnance, fhee may be apprehended and tried.

Januar 17.—Advyce approven.—Thofe quho went to Pittenweeme at the Presbyteries direction to give ther advyce concerning the dilations againft Chriftane Dote, declared they found the dilations fufficient to apprehend and try her.

Januar 24.—Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. Robert Traill, Mr. Arthur Myrton, and Mr. Robert Bennett, to goe to Anstruther the morne, and attend the execution of Ifbell Dairfie.

Recommendation.—The Presbyterie does recommend it to the Laird of Randerston, being one of the Judges quhom the Erle of Lindsay hes depute, that he and some others with him will apprehend Christane Dote, dilated for a witch, that shee may be put to tryell.

Februar 7.—Lundie compeired.—Compeired Sir James Lundie, Knicht, quho objected only that he did not give Mr. Robert Blair a direct lie. The witnesses being presented, he was desired to shew if he had any thing to object against any one or all of them, why they might not be admitted witnesses in that particular, quho objected, that they, being conjunct commissioners at that tyme with Mr. Robert Blair, could not be admitted as witnesses in that particular. Which objection the Presbyterie having considered, found that, notwithstanding of that objection, they may and ought to be admitted witnesses, because the particular offence is done against Mr. Robert Blair; as also, because the controversie could not be otherwayes decided. Wherevpon the saids witnesses were particularlie sworn to declare the truth in that buisines, in so farre as they know or false speired at; and all removed.

Mr. Andro Honyman being examined, declared, That the said Sir James being accused for staying so long from the publicke worship of God in the kirk, he promised no amendement, bot behaved himselfe rudelie toward Mr. Robert Blair, with his hatt on his head, quhen Mr. Roberts was in his hand, and said, “If yee will say that, Sir, I will say, yee lie; or if any in Scotland will say it, I will say he lies.”

Kembok declared, That amendement in staying from the kirk he promised none; but advancing with his hatt on his head, with his hand stretched out as if he wold strike, he said, “Whosoever, even the best in the land, will say that which yee say, I will say he lies.”

James Wood, baillie, declared, That he promised no amending of his staying from the kirk, bot caried himselfe in a rude and injurious way to the said Mr. Robert: He said, “It is a lie, Sir, yee say, and if the best in the countrey wold say it, I wold say the lyke.”

Thus the whole lybell being partlie confessed and partlie proven, the said Sir James is warned *apud acta* to compeir befor the Presbyterie the next day, to heare ther sentence pronounced.

Some appointed to meitt at Silverdyke and Pittenweeme.—The Presbyterie doe appoint the Moderator, Mr. Arthur Myrton, David Monro, Johne Heart,¹ Robert Bennett, and Johne Melvill, James Lenton, Johne Alexander, Johne Livingstone, to meitt at Silverdyke with a quorum of the Judges, and confidder of the dilations against Margret Myrton, concerning charmeing and confulteing with witches, and give ther advyse quhat course to take with her. As also, to meitt at Pittenweeme and give ther advyse concerning the watching of Chriftane Dote, and her dyett of sleepe, bed, meate and drinke.

Vakeing Kirks to fend out Men—The paroches whose kirks are vakeing are appointed to fend out ther men for Scottiscraigs regiment, aff the first end of the stipend, according to the ordinance of the Convention of Estates and Comission of the Assemblie.

Februar 21.—Report of these quho went to Silverdyke and Pittenweeme.—These quho had comission given to confidder the dilations against Margaret Myrton in Silverdyke, concerning confulteing with witches and charmers, declared, that they fand her to be deiplye guiltie of these, yea likelie to be guiltie of witchcraft in diverse particulars, quhervpon they did advyse the Judges to apprehend and try her; quherin they are approven. As also that they did meitt at Pittenweeme, where they did give ther best advyce to a quorum of the Judges, concerning the fittest way of watching and trying Chriftane Dote in St. Minnance.

The Presbyterie appoints Mr. David Monro, Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. Arthur Myrton, Mr. Johne Melvill, and Mr. Robert Bennett, with Mr. Andro Honyman, to be present at the confrontation of Chriftane Dote in St. Minnance, and Margaret Balfour in St. Andros, with Beatie Dote in Craill.

Lykewakes and Burialls.—The Presbyterie being verie sensible of the great abuses within these bounds at lykewakes and burialls, especiallie by drinking after the same, doe appoint Mr. James Bruce, and Mr. Andro Honyman, to confidder of overtures for restraineing therof, and represent them to the Presbyterie the next day.

Februar 21.—Lundies excuse.—This day Sir James Lundie sent ane

¹ Minister at Craill, translated to Denino, December 1646, and to Dunkeld, December 1650.

excuse of his inhabilitie to appeare befor the Presbyterie, therfor desired they wold delay to pronounce thair sentence till the next day. The Presbyterie appointed Doctor Colvill, and Mr. James Wood to deale with him for submitting to the Presbyterie, and appoints him to be summond to compeir the next day.

March 20.—Lykewakes and Burialls.—The Presbyterie, confiddering of the great abuses and manifold disorders that are frequentlie at night wakeings of the dead and burialls, which tend to the great dishonour of God, the scandall of the Gospell, and fostering of superstition and profanitie, have appointed and ordained, and by thir presents doe appoint, that people at these tymes when the dead are in the house, hold there doores close as at other tymes, and that they give no entrance to the confused multitude quho frequent such occasions: and lykewise ordaines such as goe to the place where the dead are, not being invited by the freinds of the dead, to be censured by Sessions as disorderlie walkers; and that the freinds, quho have the dead in ther house, shall call none to beare them companie bot thrie or foure grave kinffolkes or freinds quhom they thinke meetest; and they are to remember that it is not a tyme of eating or drinking, or making merrie after a wordlie maner, bot to carie themselves christianlie as becomes persones professing godlines. As also, they appoint and ordaine, that that heathnisch custome, vnder a popish name, of drinking dirgies after the corpes are interred, be vtterlie abolished. As also, quhat the dead appoints to be given to the poore, or freinds thinke fitt to distribute that way, that they bring or send it to the Session of the congregation where the person dies, to be by them distribute to the poor, quho must best know the necessities of such, and can distribute the same more reasonable and equallie than it can be done in so great a tumult of beggars as vse to be at the buriall place, where they that cryes most and have least neid, come often best speede.

March 27.—Reference to the Provinciaill, Quhat shalbe the censure of consulters with witches and charmers? As also, Quhat shalbe the censure of such as are married, and within a short tyme after brings forth a child?

Apryle 24.—The Presbyterie doe appoint Mr. Arthur Myrton, and the

Laird of Randerfton, to fhew the Univerfitie, that it is ther earneft request that Mr. Thomas Lentron be preferred to the place of Bibliothecarian.

May 20.—Lundie and Blair.—Thefe appointed to fpeake to Sir James Lundie declaired, they had difcharged thair commiffion, and found him willing to fubmitt to thair fentence, yet now he alledges he was much provocked by Mr. Robert Blair befor he fpake any wordes in paffion to him, which he offers to prove by witneffes. The Prefbyterie appoint him to compeir this day eight dayes, and bring any witneffe he can in that bufines, vtherwayes they will proceed to pronounce thair fentence.

June 12.—Sentence concerning Sir James Lundie.—The Prefbyterie taking to confideration Sir James Lundie his buffines, and quhat his censure falbe, confiddering his age and infirmitie of bodie, doe appoint him to come befor the Prefbyterie, and there to acknowledge that offence committed by him againft Mr. Robert Blair, fent to him in commiffion from the Seffion of St. Andros; and at the faid Mr. Robert his returne, he is lykewayes appointed to come befor the Seffion of St. Andros and doe the lyke; and the Prefbyterie doe appoint the Seffion of St. Andros to urge him and his familie to frequent the Kirk.

Beaton flandered of Adultrie.—Mr. Robert Bennett fhew that one in his paroch apprehended for a witch, quho is now burnt for that faët, did a fhort tyme after her apprehending (before fhee confeft herfelfe a witch) confeffe that fhee had committed adulterie with Alexander Beaton; and therafter faid, that her committing of that adulterie was the firft caufe of that wickednes of witchcraft wherein fhee hes fallen; quho, being accused therof, both in private and befor the Seffion, denyes the fame; yea, quhen he was defired to ftay to be confronted with her for clearing himfelfe, promifed to doe fo, bot notwithstanding went over to Edinburgh and ftayed ther till fhee was brunt; and defires the Prefbyteries advyce quhat falbe done therin. The Prefbyterie ordaine him to be fummond to compeir befor them the nixt day.

Norwell Inceftuous.—Mr. James M'Gill¹ fhew that James Smith, Sheriffe depute, refufes to accept of Euphane Norwell, quho confifed inceft the laft day, to try or judge her; alledging that it belongs to the

¹ Minister at Largo.

Erle of Lindfay as Stewart. The Presbyterie doe desire Mr. James Bruce to declare this to Alexander Inglis of Kingask, quho is one of my Lords deputies, and one entrusted with my Lords affaires now quhen he is out of the country.

The Presbyterie doe appoint Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. David Monro, Mr. Robert Wilkie, Mr. Robert Bennett, Mr. Harie Rymer,¹ to goe to Pittenweeme, and deale with those quhom they have apprehended as witches.

June 26.—The Presbyterie doe appoint everie minister to try in his owne paroch, quho did fett fyres on Midsummer even, and cause cite such before the Session to be censured by them.

July 3.—The Presbyterie appoint Mr. James Wood, Robert Bennett, Colein Adams, and Harie Rymer, to attend the execution of some witches in Pittenweeme on Monday nixt.

July 17.—*Lundie compeired.*—Compeired Sir James Lundie, and acknowledged his offence against Mr. Robert Blair. The Presbyterie desired him to keepe the kirk, and told that they have ordained the Session to proceed against him with the censures of the Kirk if he doe it not.

August 7.—*Wyllies dilation.*—Mr. James M'Gill shew to the Presbyterie dilations against Jonat Wylie, dilated for a witch in his paroch, desiring the Presbyteries advice thereanent. The Presbyterie doe thinke there is sufficient ground for apprehending and trying her.

August 21.—*Cessation from servile worke on Weeke Dayes of Fasting.*—According to a former appointment of the Presbyterie, they doe againe appoint and ordaine, that ther be a cessation from all servile worke vpon such weeke dayes as are appointed for solemne fasting and humiliation, aswell as vpon the Lords day, vnder paine of the censures of the Kirk.

November 7.—*Thanksgiving.*—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie, ordaineing a day of thanksgiving through the kingdome, on Thurefday come eight dayes, for the gaineing of Newcastle.

Roch not to be enlarged.—Compeired before the Presbyterie, James Richiesone, baillie of Pittenweeme, and James Airth, clerk thereof, requyring the advice of the Presbyterie, anent one Christane Roch, incarcerate there

¹ Minister at Carnbie.

for a witch, vpon thrie severall dilations of thrie confessing witches, quho have all suffered; as also, a *fama clamosa* for the space of twentie yeirs, and since her incarceration, they have found, by the search of the hangman, two markes; whither or not they might enlarge her vpon the earnest dealing of her husband, quho is vseing all means for obtaineing heirop. The Presbyterie, having taken the mater to there serious consideration, thought the foirsaid presumptions so pregnant, that they could not bot advyse them not to enlarge her till farther tryell.

December 18.—A woman in Craill, quho confesses that shee hes not beene in the kirk at publicke worship thrie yeirs together, is appointed to come befor the congregation severall Sabbthes, and acknowledge her offence publickely; and ordaines her to be put in the hands of the civile magistrate.

December 25.—*Advyce concerning Ladie Carnbies buriall.*—The advyce of the Presbyterie being desired, Whither Margret Melvill might be buried within ane yle of the kirk of Carnbie? The Presbyterie, having heard full information of the buffines on both parts, declare it to be ane breach of the a& of the Generall Assemblie, if any take vpon them to burie her within the same.

The Presbyterie does referre it to the Generall Assemblie, quhat falbe the censure of such as are convict of charmeing, or consulting with witches.

Januar 22, 1645.—*Sheivis rebuiked.*—Mr. Johne Sheivis did acknowledge his oversight in labouring to have Margret Melvill buried in the Yle of the kirk of Carnbie, and after confessing of his fault, was admonished by the Presbyterie, and promised to carie himfelfe more duetifullie to the Presbyterie for afterward.

Mr. Johne Barron and Mr. James Bruce are appointed to joyne with the Magistrates of St. Andros, and the Erle of Craufurd Lindsay his deputes, on revising the particulars that are against some incarcerate for witches in St. Andros, and give ther advyce theranent.

March 12.—*Camron Kirk.*—The whilk day was produced to the Presbyterie, the A& of Parliament for erecting the Kirk of Camron in a paroch, and designeing a manteinance therto; which diligence is approven by the Presbyterie, and the parochiners there are feriousslie desired to concurre

with the Presbyterie, to quhom the right of patronage belongs, to condescend vpon a man for filling that place.

Apryle 2.—Bonar.—This day it was shewn to the Presbyterie, that Thomas Bonar, fervand to Sir James Sandielands, younger of St. Minnance, being drinking in Kylrinnie, they did sing a malignant song, and drinke drinckes to James Grahame, sometymes Montrois, and others. The Moderator and Mr. Harie Rymmer are appointed to try in Kylrinnie, quhat further they can of that buffines, and report ther diligence the next day.

Apryle 16.—Sandielands.—It was shewn to the Presbyterie, that David Sandielands, sonne to the Laird of St. Minnance, carrouseing in his cups, he did take a badge of gold from about his necke, and threw it into the cup, and wold drinke to the giver, quho is alledged to be *quondam* Montrois, and said that diverse of qualitie did wear the lyke badge. The Presbyterie referre the farther tryell therof to the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, and appoints a letter to be writen to them for that effect, and shewing that he intends presentlie to goe to France with my Lord Kellie, that such course may be taken as by them salbe thoght most expedient.

Apryle 30.—Bonar.—These quho were appointed to try concerning Thomas Bonar declared, that they found it verified by thrie witneses, that he did sing these wordes :

Bobo Finla did command
The valiant Grahame and the Irish band
To beate the rebells out of the land.

And that he dranke a health to Bobo Finla. Both which he did thereafter confesse, alledging he knew not quhat Bobo Finla meant,¹ bot that he had heard diverse of note sing that song, and drinke that drinke in Edinburgh, a twelvemonth since : quho being called, compeired and acknowledged the same to the Presbyterie, bot wold not declare quhom he heard sing the song, or drinke the drinke. The Presbyterie referres the further tryell heiroy to the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie ; and in the meane-

¹ Perhaps by *Bobo Finla* was meant King Charles I.

tyme, desire the Magistrates of St. Andros to incarcerate him, till he be either safely conveyed to Edinburgh, or sufficient caution found that he shall answer ther according to law.

Vagabond beggar.—Whereas the vagabond beggar, mentioned the former day, is willing to reside in a paroch, and to worke in his calling, he being a horner,¹ oblesing himselfe to be willing to be scourged through any towne quher he shall be found vageing heirafter, and to make satisfaction to the Kirk, and marie the woman that he may have his chyld baptized; quhervpon the Presbyterie did appoint Mr. Johne Barron to baptize the chyld after the performance of these things.

Kelso.—This day the Presbyterie received a letter from the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie, shewing the great desolation of the towne of Kelso,² desyreing that they wold stirre vp those in the bounds to extend ther christian charitie for ther releife. The answer heirevnto is referred to the next day.

Sheivis.—A supplication from Helen Sheivis, incarcerate for a witch in St. Andros, referred.

May 14.—*Persons to be married to enact themselves at ther contract.*—The Presbyterie doe appoint and ordaine that such persons as being requyred at the contracting will not submit to enact themselves, according to the Acts of the Justice of Peace and Presbyterie, concerning the number of persons at mariages, that they be not proclaimed till they enact themselves to obey the same.

Bonar.—Whereas Thomas Bonar hath now bene fyftein dayes in the tolbuith of St. Andros, and no order taken for bringing him to Edinburgh, and he is poore and not able to intertaine himselfe, it is appointed that he shall make his publicke repentance in Kylrinnie and in Kilconquhar for his great miscarriage; and shall thereafter enact him selfe in the Session of Kilconquhar, and find caution to answer the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie quhen he shall be called for to them.

Bamuto and others drinking in St. Minnance.—Whereas it is certified to the Presbyterie, that in the house of St. Minnance, by persons quho were

¹ A maker of horn spoons, &c.

² Kelso at this tyme suffered severely from the plague.

ther at the Laird of St. Minnance buriall, healths were dranke, and elf-quher offered to be drunken, to Sir Marmaduke Langdell, Colkittoch, the Captaine of Athole, particularlie by the Laird of Bamuto, The Presbyterie doe recomend it to Mr. Thomas Black to represent that concerning Bamuto to ther Presbyterie in whose bounds he dwells; and doe appoint the Moderator and Mr. David Monro to try quhat further clearing they can have therof, and report ther diligence the nixt day.

June 4.—Report from Melvill.—Mr. James Wood declared, that the reason why Mr. Johne Melvill keeps not the dyets of the Presbyterie is because of the gutt. And that he acknowledges his omitting the prayer of consecration at the Table, bot alledges that he did that which he judges to be equivalent in the pulpitt; and that he did not reade the wordes of the institution at all, bot did relate them shortlie quhill he was distributeing the Elements; alledging quhat he did to be *scandalum acceptum*, not *scandalum datum*. He is appointed to come to the Presbyterie the nixt day, if he may possiblie.

Healths in St. Minnance.—Mr. David Forrett declared, that he posed Mr. Andro Moncreiff concerning the drinkeing of James Grahame *quondam* Montrois his health, in the house of St. Minnance; quho confesses it was motioned and begunne, bot remembers not by quhom, only it was alledged to be by Bamuto; bot it went not about the table. Mr. Harie Rymer is appointed to vse further diligence in trying therof, and to advertise the Presbyterie of Kirkadie quhat he learns heirin.

June 11.—Melvills acknowledgment.—Mr. Johne Melvill being present, acknowledges his omission of the prayer of consecration at the Table to be against Christs institution, and the practise of our Kirk, and that he failed against the order of our Kirk in not reading the wordes of the institution befor the distributeing of the Elements. For the present it is appointed, that those quho were formerlie appointed to heare him preach, fall heare him twyse befor Mr. David Guthrie his admiffion.¹

¹ Mr. Johne was considered by his parishioners unedifying in his doctrine,—“his memorie and judgement being now of a long tyme jumbled through his owne default,”—that there was “too much wyne drunken in his house,” altho they had never “seene him drunke, in respect he is an able man,” &c.

Regrate for exceſſe in drinkiny.—Whereas it is regrated, that when the Committee meete at Couper ther is great exceſſe in drinking vſed by ſome after ther meetings. As alſo, that thoſe quho are appointed to plunder deficiencies drinke quhat they plunder, and give great offence that way. Mr. George Hamilton, Mr. James M'Gill, and Skedoway, are deſired to repreſent the ſame to the Preſbyterie of Couper, and to advyſe with them quhat may be the beſt courſe for reſtraineing theſe abuſes.

June 18.—This day the Preſbyterie received the Act of the Committee of Eſtatis appointing a contribution for the help of the towne of Dundie; which is to be further thoght vpon, for laying downe the way therof at more lenth.

Scot, millar in Anſtruther.—The Preſbyterie doe appoint James Scott to enact himſelfe in the Seſſion books of Anſtruther Weſter, that he ſhall not ſuffer his mylne to goe from midnight to midnight on the Lords day, vnder the ordinar paine.

July 9.—*Act againſt thoſe quho fall befor Mariage.*—The Preſbyterie conſidering the ryfe vncleannes that is found amongſt perſons that propoſes to enter in mariage together, quho, not expecting the ſolemne bleſſing to ther mariage, and the prayers of Gods people, according to the godlie order of the Church, wickedlie deſyle themſelves with hope to ſhelter ther vncleannes from the cenſures of the Church by the following mariage; ſome that way enſnareing themſelves in vnmeit mariages, without the knowledge and to the great greife of parents, and ſuch as have intereſt in them, to the great ſcandall of the profeſſion of the Goſpell; provokeing God alſo this way to curſe ther mariages for ther diſſorderlie runneing to it: Theirfor, for remedie heirof, and removeing the ſcandall enſueing hence, they have ordained, that heirafter ſuch married perſons, of quhom it ſhall clearlie and certainlie appear, that befor ther mariage they have knowen one another, whither befor or after ther contract, ſhall publickly declare ther repentance befor the congregation offended by ther cariage. And ordains this Act to be publiſhed in pulpits that none pretend ignorance heirof, and to be regiſtrate in the Seſſion bookes of the ſeverall paroches within this Preſbyterie.

July 23.—Guthries admission.—The Presbyterie mett this day at Anstruther Wester for admiffion of Mr. David Guthrie.

August 11.—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Comiffion of the Kirk, together with a enclosed Paper, entituled “ ENORMITIES AND CORRUPTIONS IN THE MINISTRIE, AND THE REMEDIES THEREOF, RECOMMENDED TO THE SEVERALL PRESBYTERIES;” the tenour whereof followis; and first the tenour of the letter.

REVEREND AND BELOVED BRETHREN,

BEING frequentlie heir by advyce and desire of the Honorable Estates of Parliament, and being also by them excited to make ane acurate search of the sinnes of the lund, provokeing the Lord to so great indignation against vs, we did exhibite to them a new and necessarie Warning, breiflie containing the causes of our judgement, and the conceived remedies therof, which, for some reasons, is thought fitt not to be printed at this tyme. Only, we signifie this to you, that in the end therof, we exhorted the severall States among themselves to make a strict inquisition of the sinnes most incident to themselves, that they might provocke one another to repentance, and zeale to God and his cause, and so make better vse of this then of our former Warnings; and they accordinglie sett apart a tyme to that effect, and went about it. And we, quho did exhort others, thought it incumbent to ourselves, seriouslie to search, and humble and sadlie to acknowledge, the faults of our persons and callings, and such as were known to be too rife amongst vs of the Ministrie; which was in a solemne way performed in one of our meetings, one by one, as the Lord touched everie mans heart and opened there mouth. Out of which speeches, the inclosed Catalogue of sinnes, and Remedies therof, was extracted, and the samen we thought good to transmitt vnto you, that yee, making vse therof, and reflecting your thoughts vpon your selves, may Presbyteriallie follow the same course, and give order that the samen be done in your severall Sessions; desireing withall, that in each congregation, in a solemne humiliation, ther may be a confession and bewaileing of sinne, and a pressing of each familie privatelie to performe the samen, that so at last all Scotland may lament after the Lord, that his fierce wrath may depart from vs. Swa, hoping yee will not be deficient herein in so necessarie a tyme, we committ you and your labours to the blessing of God, and rests

Your loving brethren the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie.

(Sic sub^r.)

Mr. WILLIAM BENNETT, *Moderatour*.

Perth, August 5, 1645.

Postscript.—This our Letter, together with the inclosed Articles, we requyre to be registered in the Presbyterie bookes for our exoneration.

ENORMITIES AND CORRUPTIONS OBSERVED TO BE IN THE MINISTRIE, WITH THE REMEDIES THEREOF.

ENORMITIES.

The first and maine sinne, reaching both to our personall carriage and callings, we judge to be, not studieing how to keepe communion and fellowshippe with God in Christ, but walking in a naturall way without employing of Christ, or drawing vertue from him, to enable vs vnto sanctification and preaching in spirit and power.

In our Lyves.

1. Much fruitles conversing in companie, and complying with the sinnes of all sorts, not behaving ourselves as becomes the men of God.

2. A great worldlines is to be found amongst vs, mynding and speaking most about things of this life, being busied about many things, but forgetting the maine.

3. Slighting of Gods worship in their families, and theirfor no cordiall vrgeing of it vpon others ; yea, altogether wanting of it in some, if it be credible.

4. Want of gravitie in carriage and apparrell, dissolutenes in haire, and shaking about the knies ; lightnes in the apparrell of ther wyves and children.

5. Tippleing and bearing companie in vntymeous drinking in tavernes and ale-houses, or any quher els ; quherby the Ministrey is made vyle and contemptible.

6. Discountenancing of the godlie, speaking ill of them, because of some that are vnansuerable to their profession.

7. The Sabbath not sanctified after sermons, which maketh people thinke that the Sabbath is ended with the sermon.

8. Their are also to be found amongst vs, quho vse small and minced oathes.

9. Some so great strangers to Scripture, that, except in ther publicke ministrie, thogh they read many things, yet they are litle conversant in the Scripture, and in meditation therof, a duetic incumbent to all the people of God.

In our Callings.

1. Corrupt entrie into the ministrie in former tymes, and following the course of defection ; though forsaken yet never seriouslie repented : As also, present entring into the Ministrie as to a way of living in the world, and not as a spirituall calling.

2. Helping in, and holding in, of insufficient and suspected men, quho savour of the things of this life ; and keeping the doore straiter on them quhom God hath sealed, than vpon these quho have lesse evidence of the power of grace and holines.

3. Partialitie in favouring and speaking for the scandalous, whither Ministers or other persons, teaching them how to delay or shift censures.

4. Silence in the publicke cause, not labouring to cure the disaffection of people, not vrgeing them to constancie and patience in bearing of publicke burdeins, nor to forwardnes in the publicke cause, quherby Malignants are multiplied ; yea, some are so-grosse heirin, that even in publicke fasts, litle or nothing is to be heard from them sounding this way.

5. Some account it a point of wisdom to speake ambiguouslie ; some inclyne to justifie the wicked cause, vttering wordes which savour of disaffection ; and all ther complaining of the tymes is in such a way as may steale the hearts of people from lykeing of good instruments in this worke, and consequentlie from Gods cause ; yea some, reading publicke orders, are ready to speake against them in ther private conference.

6. Idlenes, either in seldome preaching, as once on the Lords day, or in preparation for publicke ducties, not being given to reading and meditation : others have bot fitts of paines, not lyke other tradsmen, continuallie at ther worke.

7. Want of zeale and love to the conversion of soules, not being weighted with the want of successe in reclaimeing of sinners, nor searching in themselves the cause of nocht profiteing ; preaching *ex officio*, nocht *ex conscientie officij*.

8. Selfe seeking in preaching, and a venting rather of their wit and skill, then shewing forth of the wisdom and power of God.

9. Lifelesnes in preaching, not studieing to be furnished by Christ with power, and so the ordinance of God reacheth not to the conscience ; and heirto belongeth the not applying of the doctrine vnto the audiorie and tymes.

10. The indiscreit cureing of the indiscretion of pious people and ministers, quherby godlines hath gotten a deepe wound, and profanitie hath lifted vp the head, contrarie to that wise and gracious order set forth in the Generall Assemblie holden at Edinburgh 1641.

11. Litle care to furnish our Armie, either abroad or at home, with ministers : One of our greivous sins, and causes of our calamitie.

12. Last, it is to be feared that Ministers in secreit are negligent to wrestle in prayer, for a blessing to be poured out vpon ther labours, contenting themselves with the publicke performances.

REMEDIES.

1. First, That Presbyteries make great conscience to have all vacant places within ther severall bounds filled with godlie and able men, quher ever they be to be found : And that vnder pretence of being a helper or second to another, none be taken in bot such as are able for the same charge.

2. Whereas it is knowen that private tryalls in Presbyteries are for the most part perfunctorious, the brethren are heirby exhorted to be more serious, and faithfull heirin, as they wilbe ansuerable to Christ, the cheife shepherd. And in a way prævious therto, that brethren be frie in loving admonition, one of another secretlie, from tyme to tyme ; and that quhosoever keepes not the Presbyterie or Synod, after grave admonitions, may come vnder further censures.

3. That acuracie be vsed at Visitation of kirks ; and that the Elders, one by one, (the rest being removed), be called in, and examined vpon the Ministers behaviour in his calling and conversation.

4. That course be taken to divyde congregations in parts, and by the help, not only of Elders in ther severall parts, bot of neighbours also, the evills and neglects of persons and families may be found out and remedied.

5. That everie Minister be humbled for his former failings, and make his peace with God, that the more effectually he may preach repentance, and may stand in the gape, to turn away the Lords wrath ; runneing betweene the Porch and the Altar, sighing and crying for all the abominations of the land.

6. Speciall care wold be had, that all Ministers have ther conversation in heaven, mainly mynding the things of God, and exercising faith for drawing life out of Jesus Christ, the fontaine of life, arming themselves therby with power against the contagion and wickednes of the world.

7. Care wold be had of godlie conference in Presbyteries, even in tyme of ther refreshment ; and the Moderator is to looke to it, that good mater be furnished therto.

8. It is also verie necessarie for everie Minister, that wold be fruitfull in the worke of the Lord, to bring home the word of God to his owne heart and conscience by prayer and meditation, both befor and after the publicke ordinance.

9. Vse wold be made of the Roll of the paroch, not only for examination, bot also for considering the severall conditions and dispositions of the people, that accordingly they may be admonished, and prayed for by the Ministers in secreit.

10. It is verie expedient that Ministers have more communion among themselves, for ther mutuall stirreing vp and strengthening of ther hands in the Lords worke, and rectifying of these quho are nocht incorrigible.

11. That Ministers in all sorts of companie labour to be fruitfull, as the salt of the earth, seasoning them they meitt with ; not only forbearing to drinke healths (Satans snare leading to excesse) bot reproveing it in others.

12. All Ministers wold be carefull to cherish the smoaking flaxe of weake beginnings in the wayes of God, and ought courageously to oppose all mockers and revylers of the godlie.

13. As at all tymes, so speciallie now, quhen the Lord is calling vs to ane account, it becomes the Ministers of Christ, with all diligence and faithfulness, to improve ther ministrie to the vtmost, to be instant in season and out of season ; yea, even frugallie to employ ther tyme in private, in reading of and meditateing on Scripture, that the Word of God may dwell plentifully in them.

14. That the provydeing the Armies with Ministers be preferred to any congregation ; and these who are appointed to attend the same and are deficient, be, without delay, severely censured according to the Act of the Generall Assemblie. And that all Ministers, not only in publicke, pray for our Armies, speciallie these that are to encounter with the bloodie enemy within the land, bot also continually beare them vp befor the Lord ; that their lyves being reformed, thair hearts and hands may be strengthened, and thair vndertakings at last blessed of God with successe.

15. That besyde all other scandalls, silence, or ambiguous speaking in the Publicke cause, much more detracting and disaffected speeches, be seasonably censured : And to this effect, all honest hearted brethren wold firmely vnite themselves in the Lord, the younger honouring the elder, and the elder not despising the younger.

16. And finallie, both for the corruption of the Ministrie, and remedies therof, we referre the brethren to the Act of the Generall Assemblie at Edinburgh 1596, revived in the late Assemblie at Glasgow 1638, to be found in the printed Act concerning the same.

Mr. Andro Honyman appointed to attend Cambus regiment 15 dayes.

This tyme the Presbyterie were interrupted of meeting by the great troubles of the countrey.

September 17.—The Presbyterie feriouſlie confiddering the late wonderfull and glorious victorie at Philiphauch over the rebels, being desirous to performe publicke thanksgiving to God for the same, als folemnlie as may be, and being loath to delay the same, have appointed the nixt Lords day to be a preparation for the same, and the Lords day nixt following a day of folemne thanksgiving.

The Presbyterie, confiddering quhat is ther duetie at this tyme toward such as have kythed themselves evill affected to the worke of God in thir kingdomes, in this tyme of our calamitie, and that ther be diverse rankes of them; some quho have opinlie kythed the same, and beene corrupters of others, such are appointed to be very peremptorlie dealt with in rebuiking and censuring of them; for others quho have not proceeded so farre, and yet through weaknes and being tempted, have beene readie to curse the worke, and to judge of the cause by the effects, and to curse those quhom the Lord hath employed as speciall instruments therein, yea have beene on the brinke of forfakeing the Covenant,—Ministers are exhorted, both in ther doctrine and vtherwayes, to sett foorth the greivounes of that sinne of murmuring, and quhat the woefull consequences therof may be, and no question will be, if not feriouſlie repented for.

Because the Provinciaall now approaches, it is thought fitt the practise of the Directorie of Worship be delayed till a course be sett downe by them for vniformitie. In the meanetyme ministers are appointed to be making way for the same, by giving information to ther people, both in ther publicke doctrine and vtherwayes theranent.

October 1.—A supplication presented be Andro Strang in Pittenweeme, desiring that his wife Christane Roch, incarcerate for a witch a long tyme since, and yet not put to tryell, may be enlarged. The answer is referred till the nixt day.

October 8.—The Presbyterie, having seene and confiddered of the dilations against Christane Roch, doe thinke thee should be put to a tryell.

November 6.—*Carmichaell Warloch.*—The dilations against Andro Carmichaell, in the paroch of Dininnow, incarcerate in St. Andros for a warloke, being red and confiddered, advyce was given that he might be enlarged, vpon caution to returne to ward againe quhensoever he fall be called by the Judges.

Januar 21, 1646.—*Support for Craill.*—The brethren are exhorted to deale with ther parochiners to contribute for the help of the towne of Craill now in ther great calamitie.

Februar 25.—This day the Presbyterie received a letter from the Committee of Estaites, desiring the names of all the killed in this service, together with the number of orphanes and widowes, and ther severall ages and cafes, may be sent to them. All are appointed to vse diligence heirin.

May 6.—This day the Presbyterie mett at the new erected Kirk of Camrone, for admitting of Mr. George Nairne minifter therat.

May 21.—*Melvill prohibite to give the Communion.*—The Presbyterie, being informed that Mr. Johne Melvill intends to celebrate the sacrament of the Lords Supper the next Lords day, doe appoint him to cease therin, till they comon with him anent the escapes he committed the last occasion he had of that kynd.

May 21.—*Abercrombie and St. Minnance.*—The quhilk day Sir James Sandielands of St. Minnance gave in a supplication to the Presbyterie, in name of himselfe and the inhabitants of the towne and lands of St. Minnance, desiring the forsaide towne and lands of St. Minnance to be dismembered from the paroch of Kilconquhar, for severall reasons; and containeing severall reasons quherfor the Kirk of St. Minnance in that case shuld be the place of meeting for publicke worship, and that the Presbyterie wold concurre for obtaineing heirof. The Presbyterie heartilie approves the same, and promifes to vse ther best endeavors for accelerating therof; and appoints a letter to be written to my Lord Balcarras, patron of Kilconquhar paroch, to that effect, and the Laird of Kineraig to declare the same to the Session of Kilconquhar, that they may declare their mynd heiranent to the Presbyterie at Kilconquhar the next day.

May 27.—Forrett admitted in Kilconquhar.—The Presbyterie mett at Kilconquhar for receaving Mr. David Forrett.

Abercrombie and St. Minnance.—The Seffion of Kilconquhar approven the motion of difmembring the towne and lands of St. Minnance from them, and adjoyning them to Abercrombie, provydeing it prejudice neither their minifters mantenance, the fabrick of ther kirk, nor the patrones right. Mr. Robert Wilkie, being heard in that mater, submitted his part to the Presbyterie. Mr. Robert Traill and Kincraig are appointed to desire the Laird of St. Minnance to put all things on his part to a point, whither anent stipend, manse, gleib, pasturage, or any thing of that kynd.

June 24.—A letter appointed to be written to the Comiffion for plantation of Kirks, earnestlie recomending the vniteing of Abercummie and St. Minnance in a paroch, and Sir James Sandielands desired to secure quhat he conditions to that purpose.

July 15.—Doctrine.—The doctrine, Joh. 6, v. 62, 63, 64, 65, delyvered by Mr. Johne Melvill, being examined, he was censured for impertinent citation of Scripture, five or fix severall tymes, to prove points; for vseing impertinent epithets, and for indistinct speaking in prayer.

September 2.—Anstruther Malignant.—The quhilk day information being given to the Presbyterie against Johne Anstruther, burges in Anstruther-Easter, of fundrie grosselie impious and malignant speeches vttered by him, the Presbyterie appoints him to be fumond against the next day of ther meeting.

Pittenweeme, September 14.—Anstruther.—Compeired Johne Anstruther, and appealed from the Presbyterie to the Provinciall Assemblie. The Presbyterie, notwithstanding of his pretended reasons for his appeale, and his exceptions against any of the witnesses, after mature deliberation, resolves to put the mater to a tryell.

The witnesses, being called and verie solemnlie fworne, did depone as followeth. Mr. James Richardfone did depone as followeth.

1. That in a jearing way, calling minifters, monkes and freirs, he said, "Tak vp your blessed Vnion! by Jesus Chrift the cursedest Vnion that ever we saw."

2. That he said, minifters had nothing now to speake of, bot to preach

of the troublesome dayes, and ther owne particular, and to get great stipends; “Quhat vengeance ailes them now, more than the ministers of old, whose stipends was but litle, foure or fyve hundreth merks?”

3. He said, speaking of ministers, “O yee Scribes and Pharisees, woe be vnto yow, yee sitt in Moses seate; yee bring no other thing in the Kirk discipline bot tradition;” and swore by Christ, they mixed all ther doctrine with tradition.

4. That he swore by Christ, that all the ministers of Scotland were menfworne and perjured men, because they had preached and sworn to maintaine the religion as it was professed of old, and they had brought in a Directorie dischargeing reading in churches.

5. That he prophanelie asked, quhat he could doe, till the last bell on the Lords day, bot goe and drinke a chopping of wyne.

6. That he not onlie affirmed, bot horriblely swore, by Gods wounds, that all the ministers were perjured and menfworne men, and said he wold avow and maintaine this before the Presbyterie.

Mr. James Anderfone did depone as followeth.

1. That he heard Johne Anstruther speake of the Vnion of thir kingdomes in a tanting way, and saying, “O blessed Vnion!” and that after that he called it “A cursed Vnion.”

2. That he heard the said Johne, speaking of ministers stipends, and how frugallie some befor did live vpon litle stipends, and that he said, “What vengeans ailes them now?”

3. That he heard him say, “Yee Scribes and Pharisees sitt in Moses seate;” and that he said, “Take heid that yee mixe not your doctrine with your owne traditions.”

4. That he heard him sweare by Jesus Christ, that the ministers were perjured; and that he heard him disallow the Directorie.

5. That he heard him swear, by Gods wounds, that the ministers were perjured and menfworne men.

The Presbyterie, finding the speeches as deponed to, to be so full of impietie and Malignancie, have referred the whole mater to the Comission of the Kirk to be judged of.

Januar 13, 1647.—Restraint of Fornication.—The Presbyterie, feriouslie

confiddering the great abounding of that vyle finne of vncleannes, doe appoint minifters to deale earnestlie with magistrates in burghes, and gentlemen and Sessions in landward, that they will be more carefull to put the A&ts of Parliament to full execution againft such perfons.

Januar 27.—Distressed people of Argyle.—This day the Presbyterie received ane letter from the Comiffion of the Kirk, declareing the deplorable condition of the poore people of Argyle, together with ane A& of Parliament, recomending them to the charitie of all good Chrifians within the kingdome. The Presbyterie, apprehending the great outcrying this may produce, to have a colle&tion in thefe bounds quher ther are fo many poore widowes, orphanes, poore fathers and mothers, quho lived by ther children, to quhom help was promifed by the Parliament, and are yet neglected, doe appoint Mr. George Hamilton to represent the fame to the Comiffion of the Kirk, and crave ther advyce.

Februar 10.—This day the Presbyterie mett at Forgan for admiffione of Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, minifter ther.

March 10.—Widowes.—Mr. Robert Traill declared, that ther was no poffible meanes of getting any courfe laid downe by the Parliament at this tyme for the help of oure poore widdowes, orphanes, old fathers and mothers quho lived by ther children, and the rest quho are in neceffitie by the killing of thefe quho belonged to them, in England and at home.

March 24.—Salt pannes.—Anent falt pannes. The falters in Craill cannot be gotten fo tryed nor restrained as they ought, through the want of a minifter. For Pittenweeme pannes they goe not.

Reference to the Provinciall.—Whereas it is regrated by the Presbyterie that the finne of drunkennes does greatly abound in this Shyre, efpeciallie amongft thefe of greater fort, it is referred to the Provinciall to lay downe fome courfe how it may be restrained.

Apryle 14.—Parties married whose humours cannot aggrie.—Mr. Robert Wilkie declareing, that a man and a woman latelie married in his paroch, whose humours cannot comply together, yea, that the one is feared for bodilie harme of the other, he is appointed to vse all meanes to informe them of the covenant and oath of God, quherby they have bound themselves mutuallie.

May 6.—Abercornes children.—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, desiring vs to take inspection both of my Lord Paisley,¹ his attendants, as also of his education, considering that he is a nobleman come of Popish parents. The Presbyterie recommends the care heirof to the ministers of St. Andros.

May 27.—Presbyterie meeting at Anstruther.—The Presbyterie mett at Anstruther Easter, and concluded the place of ther ordinar meeting to be ther so long as the Plague continues in St. Andros; and resolved to meete bot once in fourteene dayes, because of the danger of frequent meeting.

June 24.—Fyres on Midsummer-even referred.—The Presbyterie finding that, notwithstanding of Actes made against the superstitious setting out of fyres on Midsummer even, yet it is still practised by many; the Presbyterie refers the same to the Provinciaall Assemblie.

September 15.—Mertins censure for putting violent hands on the Minister.—Compeired befor the Presbyterie Agnes Mertin, quho confessing putting violent hand on the minister and curseing him, they did appoint her to sitt foure Sabbothes in sackcloth, in the publicke place of repentance. And recommends to the magistrates, that they wilbe carefull to inflit such civile punishments as they shall find meitt for so haynous and grosse a fault.

Nov. 3.—Sharp presented to Craill.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie received a presentation from the Erle of Craufurd, patron of the paroch of Craill, nominateing and presenting Mr. James Sharp, Regent, to be minister at the said kirk, and requyreing the Presbyterie to enter him to his tryalls for that effect. The ministers of St. Andros are appointed to advertise the said Mr. James Sharp to be present the next day.

Nov. 17.—Sharp to Craill.—Compeired comissioners from the paroch of Craill, desiring the Presbyterie to proceed in putting Mr. James Sharp to his tryalls, according to the presentation given in the last day, and requieisting [them] to accelerate the same. The said Mr. James being asked, did submitt himselfe to the Presbyterie, protesting that if he be called to that charge, thair be a tymeous provision of a helper with him therin. The comissioners from Craill did undertake to give the said Mr. James satisfaction in that desire at the Presbyteries sight. Wherevpon, the Presby-

¹James, Lord Paisley, eldest son of James, second Earl of Abercorn.

terie did appoint him, for the first part of his tryall, the contraverſie *De Judice contraverſiarum*.

December 1.—Mr. James Sharp gave in his theſes to be agitate the next day.

December 25.—The diſcourſe delyvered by Mr. James Sharp on the contraverſie *De Judice contraverſiarum*, and diſputs following therevpon, cenſured and approven. He is appointed to adde the next day. As alſo, he hath aſſigned to him that text, Eph. 3. 15, 16, 17, for ane popular ſermon.

December 29.—The doctrine, Joh. 8. v. 1, 2, 3, delyvered by Mr. Robert Weyms, and addition by Mr. James Sharp, cenſured and approven. For accelerating Mr. James Sharp his tryalls, the Presbyterie are to meitt the morne eight dayes, the 6 of Januar, for hearing his popular ſermon.

Januar 13, 1648.—The Presbyterie mett in the New Colledge Schooles, for hearing Mr. James Sharp on the tongues, in caticheticke queſtions, and chronologie; in all which he was approven: As alſo, he is fullie approven by all, in all the parts of his tryalls in relation to that charge quhervnto now he is called. Mr. James Makgill is appointed to ſerve his edict the next Lords day, and to return the anſuer therof to the miniſters of St. Andros, Mr. John Barron and Mr. Walter Comrie, on Wedneſday; and if nothing be objected at that tyme, the day of his admiſſion is appointed to be this day fyfteen dayes, quher Mr. James Bruce is to preach.

Januar 27.—*Sharps Admiſſion.*—The Presbyterie mett at Craill for admiſſion of Mr. James Sharp, miniſter ther, quher Mr. James Bruce did preach.

March 8.—Whereas ther is a ſuperſtitious praetice of makeing graves vpon the Lords day, quher it may be convenientlie eſchewed, the Presbyterie doe appoint, that no graves be made vpon the Lords day, bot in caſe of urgent neceſſitie allowed by the Miniſter and Seſſion.

Apryle 26.—*Balfour.*—Compeired Andro Balfour, diſſobedient to the Seſſion of Largo, quho confeſſing that he called a woman in Largo theife, lyar, he is appointed either to prove her a theife, vtherwayes to ſatiſſie the ordinance of the Seſſion.

M'Allum to be writen for.—The Presbyterie, confiddering how neceſſar it is that ſuch as have the Iriſh tongue be trained at ſchooles and colledges,

for the better planting of kirks in the Highlands, and being certaineie informed of the good hopes of Zacharias M'Allum, sonne to Mr. Archibald M'Allum, that he is a quicke youth capable of learning, and that his father is not able to traine vp his children that way, doe appoint Mr. James Wood to fend for the said Zacharias M'Allum to come heir for that effect, and the Presbyterie are willing to take the burden of his intertainment till the Provinciaall Assemblie.

May 17.—No exercise this day, in regard of neccessar despatch of publicke buffines.

Letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie.—The quhilke day the Presbyterie received a letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie: The tenour quhairof followes:—

REVEREND BRETHREN,

In our letter of the last of March to the Synods, which we suppose all of you have seene and perused, we did acquaint you with our desires, given in to the Honorable Estates of Parliament about that tyme, and since after some conferences had, and some papers interchanged, betuixt ther Lordships and vs vpon these desires, whilst we had received no satisfaction therto, they wer pleased to fall vpon the consideration of the breaches of the Treatie and Covenant, and have resolved to send demands vnto the Parliament of England for reparation therein. One of these demands concerning religion, haveing first voted the same, without our advyse and consent was sought therto, they did thereafter communicate vnto vs, that we might returne our thoughts thervpon. In ansuer to which, after some¹ of ther laying asyde ther former way of applications, both to the King and the Parliament of England, and of ther encroacheing vpon the liberties of the Kirk by ther taking resolution in that which concernes religion without vs, and conceiving the demand (incace it sould be refused) to be intended as a ground of warre, we delayed to give any judgement therof vntill our former desires sould be first satisfied. And withall, intreating that ther Lordships wold be pleased to communicate vnto vs ther resolutions vpon the whole mater, that we might sie that all things were so caried on as wold contribute for secureing of Religion, and preserving the Vnion betuixt the Kingdomes. And thereafter did present vnto ther Lordships ane humble and earnest Petition, pressing ane ansuer to our former desires, and containeing ane exoneration of ourselves and of the Kirk of Scotland, if they sould refuse to hearken thervnto. Which ther Lordships having considered, did, after some dayes, communicate vnto vs a Declaration, containeing the grounds and resolutions of the Parliament vpon the whole mater, together with another paper, which referreth vs to the Declaration for satisfaction of our eight desires, containeing ther ansuer to the other particulars, which we had added to our Petition, and in our ansuer vpon the demand

¹ Blank in the record.

concerning religion, and intimateth to vs that in these things in ther Declaration which concerne religion, they wilbe readie to heare and consider the advyse of the Comission of the Kirk. Bot, after peruseall of the Declaration, and of the other papers, we are farre from finding satisfaction to our first desires, or to the others particulars afterwards given in by vs to ther Lordships, which, as we have alreadie expressed in a part, by a paper of the 25 of this instant; so we resolve, in a verie short tyme, more fullie to represent to ther Lordships, and concerning the libertie of the Kirk to be verie farre prejudged by the Parliaments proceeding to determine in those things which so neirlie and highlie concerne religion without the advyse and consent of the Kirk, (many considerable members of Parliament, quho have beene of constant integritie in the cause of God, in open Parliament dissenting therfrom, and protesting against the same for the liberties of the Kirk,) we found ourselves necessitate to protest for the preservation of the liberties of the Kirk, according to the Word of God, solemne Covenants, former Lawes, and laudable custome of this Kirk and Kingdome, and that the Act of Parliament be no preparative for the future, and that it salbe yet frie vnto vs, according to the duetie of our place, and as ther salbe cause, to give our judgement in ane ecclesiasticall way, of the materialls of the said Declaration, so farre as religion is therein concerned, als frielie as if ther Lordships had taken no resolution thervpon. But we hope in a short time to give you more full and perfyte intimation of all these things, by sending the papers themselves, and therfor sould now have beene silent were it nocht that we are not ignorant of the devyses of malignant and disaffected men, quho doe endeavour nothing more diligentlie than (if it be possible,) by subtile wordes and faire speeches on the one syde, and slanderous and false reports on the other, to gaine some of the ministrie to be subservient to ther designs against the Kirk and the cause of God, knowing that by this meanes especiallie, it was that the libertie of this Kirk was betrayed, and the pure ordinances of Christ corrupted of befor. These things we speake not as if we were effrayed of any of you, our deare brethren; we hope that after so many teares and temptations, so many prayers and supplications, so great power of the Lords hand in delyvering vs from so great a yocke of bondage, and after so many vowes and promises, everie minister within the land will abhorre to be accessorie to any thing that may promote the purposes of these quho studie to vndermyne the worke of God. Nay, these many Letters to ourselves, and Supplications to the Parliament from many Synods and Presbyteries, as they are vnto vs mater of much refreshing in the midst of many difficulties and straites, quherwith God is pleased to exercise vs, so we take them for evidences of the stedfastnes of these from quhom they have come: And albeit, all have not had the opportunitie to expresse themselves that way, yet we make no question of ther constancie, and that they wilbe readie to witnes ther affection to the cause of God, as they sall sie need. Bot as fellow labourers quho are employed with you in the same worke of the Lord, we give you warneing of the danger, and stirre you vp to be earnest with God in prayer and supplication for your owne stedfastnes, so to give faithfull and tymeous warneing vnto all with quhom yee have to doe against all the snares and tentations of these tymes; and that yee may now so carie yourselves in all things, that quhen the Lord salbe pleased to bring his servants together in a Generall Assemblie, all of thame may come thither furnished with

the spirit of integritie, vnitie, and zeale, that so the boasteing of adversaries may be put to silence, and ther hopes blasted, quhen they sall sie vs to be of one mynd, and heare vs speake the same thing, for caricing on the worke of the Gospell, and obviating everie danger that threatens the same at home and from abroad ; which, as we trust, will be the endeavore of all Presbyteries, so it is the earnest desire and prayer of

Your affectioned brethren the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie.

Sic subscribitur.

Mr. ROBERT DOWGLAS, *Moderatour.*

Edinburgh, 28 Apryle 1648.

Postscript.—It is evident from the premisses, how great and many difficulties the Kirk of God in this land is brought vnder, by reason of the sinnes and provocations of his people ; as also, how deepe a revolting from the cause of God many are come to, and quhat cause we have to feare the overturning of all that God has done for vs ; therefor, we have resolved that ther sould be a fast kepted in all the Congregations of this land the last Sabbath of May, for intreating the Lord for mercie and help in this day of our great neid, which we desire you keepe in your severall congregations. We doubt nocht, yee wilbe carefull that such of your number as are of this Comission keepe the next quarter meeting, the last Wednesday of May.

Sic sub.

Mr. ROBERT DOWGLAS, *Moderator.*

Edinburgh 1 May 1648.

Supplication to the Committee of the Shyre.—The Presbyterie, confiddering that to morrow the Committee of Warre of this shyre are to receive orders from the honorable Estates of Parliament, tending to engadgement in warre, doe find themselves oblidged in conscience to supplicate the said honorable Committee ; the tenour quhairof followis :

VNTO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE COMMITTEE OF WARRE OF THE SHYRE OF FYFE, THE HUMBLE
PETITION OF THE PRESBYTERIE OF ST. ANDROS ;
SHEWETH,

THAT quheras the happie successe in promoving the ends of our National Covenant, and of the Solemne League and Covenant, hathe alwayes flowed from the firm vnion of counsell and endeavoures of State and Church joyntlie, we cannot bot conceive great feares of the imminent dangers to the cause of God within this land, that engadging in warre is so farre advanced by the high and honorable Court of Parliament, the just desires of the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, and of the most parts of the Provinciaall Synods within this kingdome, being as yet altogether vnsatisfied ; We therfor make this our addresse vnto your Honours, earnestlie intreating you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Chryst, that, according to your wonted and exemplarie zeale in the cause of God, yee wilbe pleased, in this tyme of neid, to interpose your most earnest supplication to the high and honorable Court of Parliament and ther Committee, that ther be no further progresse toward a warre, till courses be aggried vpon for securing Religion and

suppressing Malignants, aswell as Sectaries ; which we humble conceive is not as yet done. Your Honours have reason with vs to insist in pressing the peaceable way of treating with the Parliament of England, befor violent wayes be attempted, the event quherof is so vncertaine ; first, because the honorable Court of Parliament of this kingdome, in there late Declaratione, have declared ther resolution not to engadge in warre till the lawfulness and necessitie therof be cleared, so that all well affected (among them we constantlie are,) be satisfied in ther consciences. As also, because the Houses of Parliament in England are so farre advanced toward satisfactorie answers to ther demands, as appeares by ther late votes.

Mr. Robert Blair, Mr. James Bruce, and Sir James Lumisdell, appointed to present the same.

May 24.—Supplication of the shyre to be approven and insert in Session bookes. The Presbyterie, being certaintie informed of the paines taken be some in procureing subscriptions to a protestation against the humble Supplication of the Committee of Warre, by Presbyteries and Burghes of this shyre, and the Vniversitie of St. Andros, doe appoint brethren to be carefull to acquaint ther people of the evils heirof ; as also, that they crave the consent and approbation of the severall Sessions to the humble Petition of this Presbyterie to the honorable Committee of Warre in this shyre, and that it may be registrate in the severall Session bookes of this Presbyterie, and report ther diligence heirin.

May 31.—Letter to the Parliament.—The Presbyterie doe appoint ther reverend and welbeloved brethren, Mr. David Forrett and Mr. Robert Bennett, to present to the honorable Estates of Parliament, the Anfuer condiscended vpon by vs to ther Letter, of the date Edinburgh May 11 1648 ; the tenour of which Anfuer followes :

OUR VERIE NOBLE AND MOST HONORABLE LORDS,

If it had bene within the reach of our power conscionable to have followed the direction of your Letter, that had beene, we confesse, the only desireable ansuer to the same ; but seeing the sinnes of the land hath procured this mist vpon publicke counsells, that we cannot sie how to act as your Lordships direct, least therfor our silence sould be misinterpreted, we found ourselves oblidged in all humilitie, in the feare of the Lord, to returne this Ansuer to your Lordships.

Who these are that hate his Majesties person, and being lovers of Sectaries within this land, doe cast aspersions or raise calumnies vpon your Lordships proceedings, we professe unfainedlie we know not, and if we knew it, wold be readie in our way to censure them ; bot we acknowledge ther be many, (among quhom we professe our selves,) quho heartilie approve

Monarchicall government in his Majesties person and posteritie, and hateing Sectaries with a perfect hatred, are loadened with reproaches and calumnies be Malignants and thier favourers, for ther constancie and zeale in the cause of God, and yet are nocht satisfied in your Lordships wayes, as it is brieflie expressed in the joynt Petition of this Shyre, and largelie sett forth in the Representation of the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie. Hardlie could any thing on earth so rejoyce our hearts, as the assurance that your Lordships preferred the preservation of Religion to all earthlie things, and were promoveing all the ends of the Covenant, and complying with the desires of the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, as your Lordships professe, which we take as a testimonie from your Lordships justifieing ther desires as lawfull and necessarie; and it salbe our constant prayers to God, that maters may be so caried on by your Lordships to the great joy of all the godlie in the land, and disappointment of Malignants, whose insolencies are growen to a great hight by the too great appearance of the contrarie. As for that part of your Lordships Letter, quherin, with the clearing of your owne proceedings, as no wayes prejudiciall to the liberties of the Kirk, heave imputations are laid vpon others, we both wish your Lordships way had given reall evidences how farre yee were from taking ane antecedent judgment in maters of religion; and withall, we professe our detestation of that Episcopall disease of authoritative meddleing with civile affairs. Yet this we acknowledge, that, according to the latitude of the Word of God, (which is our theame,) we are allowed to treat, in ane ecclesiasticall way, of greatest and smallest affaires, from the Kings throne that could be established in righteousness, to the merchands ballance that could be vsed in faithfulness. We know no church judicatorie that makes the Kings negative voyce in Parliament ther theame to dispute; but this we must hold, that all Church judicatories should take great care that neither Princes nor Parliaments, whether affirmative or negative voyce, prove prejudiciall to Religion, the cause of God, and solemne Covenants. Your Lordships citeing that Act of Parliament in the yeer 1584, calls to our mynd the woefull posture of affaires at that tyme, both in State and Church, by a dominireing faction that oppressed the Judicatories of the Kirk so farre that ther Registers were detained from them, and some parts therof torne out, till the Lord, in great mercie to his covenanted people, quicklie dispelled that cloud: And thogh it be certaine that the Act cited was intended at the by, for reestablishing of Prelacie, then ruined by the Nationall Covenant, thrie yeirs befor sworne and subscribed, yet excluding the Prelates from being one of the thrie Estates (as now we hope they are eternallie excluded), we heartilie close with the Act, and say further, That the impugneing, whither of Princes, or Parliaments, or Kirks just authoritie, is a grosse and fearfull breach of our solemne Covenants, and deserves the wrath of God, and damnation, in a high degrie. But withall we vnderstand that ther is a vaste difference betweene power or authoritie, and the proceedings and exercise therof. The one we are sworne not only to impugne, bot to maintaine; the other we may and ought, by the judgment of discretion, to examine, and if we find them opposite to the word of God, and prejudiciall to his cause, ought to obey God rather then men vpon quatever perrill. We are remitted for full satisfaction by your Lordships to the Declaration sent to vs, which we have diligently red, and seriouslie pondered, and we cannot

find therby a course laid downe for the preservation and the propagation of Religion, and suppressing of Malignants; for we sie not so much as propositions to be presented, let be securitie maintained from his Majestie, till he be in the frie exercise of his royall power, and so als frie to refuse as to grant, which how dangerous it is to religion his Majesties mynd and professed purpose, even in this his low condition, concerning Prelacie and Liturgie being sufficientlie knowen, we leave it to your Lordships to considder; how dangerous also it is, that Malignants, arising in armes, and having bot the cunning to conceale ther intention, sall no wayes be opposed, but rather cherished and strengthened, all quho sufficientlie remembers ther Covenant may evidentlie sie. Notwithstanding all this, that the cause of Engadgement remains the same, (which is your Honours expression,) we professe, in all humble respect to your Lordships, as in the sight of the Searcher of Hearts, we cannot sie, vnles we resolve together to forsake our reason, conscience, and Covenant. The case thus standing, we must of necessitie, with all humilitie and fervencie, intreat your most honourable Lordships not to exact or expect from vs, that we sall, by preaching, prayer, or any other meanes, stirre vp the people to this expedition. The most high and only wise God, befor quhom all nations are as the dust of the ballance, enspyre the hearts of our confederate neighbours to yield to that which is right in his sight, and perswade your Lordships to accept the same: Or if, in his just displeasure against the sinnes of both lands, ther be a necessitie of engadging in a woefull warre, grant that the throne of Christ be established in these lands, and our Kings throne, as a part of the footestoolle therof, and that all the enemies of both be effectuellie and spedilie suppressed. So pray

Your Lordships Servants, obedient in Christ, the Presbyterie of St.
Andros, by our Moderator, at our command,

Sic sub^r.

SAMUELL RUTHERFUIRD, Moderator.

St. Andros, May 24, 1648.

June 14.—Act of the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie.—The quhilk day the Presbyterie received ane Act of the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, feriousslie recomending to Presbyteries to take speciall notice and tryell of everie brothers cariage in the publicke buffines at this tyme, that it may be found, quho doe not declare themselves against the present Engadgement, nor joyne with the brethren in ther common resolutions against it, nor give publicke information to the people of the vnlawfulness therof, they may be referred to the next Generall Assemblie. And if any have declared themselves for it, that they be presentlie censured. The whole brethren present declared, That they had preached against the same, and were convinced in ther conscience, both of the vnnecessarines and vnlawfulness of the same at this tyme. Only Mr. Johne Barron declared, that as yet he hes neither preached for it nor against it, and that he is not as

yet convinced of the vnlawfulness therof: he desires a tyme to be resolved ere he give a final answer.—Granted.

June 21.—Against the Band of the late Parliament.—The Presbyterie having seene and confiddered the Band or A& of the late Parliament, appointed by the Committee of Estates to be subscryved by all the subjects of this kingdome, and finding the same much prejudiciall to the settling and establisshing of Religion in these kingdomes, and contrar to the Solemne League and Covenant, doe appoint brethren in ther places and callings to be carefull to informe the people committed vnto them, that they be not enfnared by any specious pretences to subscryve the same.

July 5.—Nevay, Regent.—The Presbyterie being informed that Mr. David Nevay, Regent in St. Leonards Colledge, hath vented diverse things contrar to the establisshed order of this Kirk, as, namelie: 1. That the Church constitutions have no strength, and are not obligatorie, vntill they be confirmed by the civill magistrate. 2. That Eraftians deserve not to be called Sectaries. He is appointed to be fummond to compeir befor the Presbyterie this day 15 dayes.

Reference to the Generall Assemblée.—The Presbyterie does recomend to ther Comissioners, that they recomend to the Generall Assemblée the appointing the Covenant to be subscryved throughout the kingdome.

July 11.—Patons admiffion.—The Presbyterie mett at Kemback for admiffion of Mr. David Paton, minister ther.

August 2.—M^cAllum.—The Presbyterie doe appoint Mr. James Wood and Mr. Andro Honyinan to aggrie with some in St. Andros for Zacharias M^cAllum (quhom they appointed to be writen for) his buird, till the Provinciall Assemblée.

October 11.—Ayton.—Compeired Mr. William Ayton, quho being accused, if ever he said, that he repented his subscryveing the Solemne League and Covenant, and that he called it a Band, and said, If he had it he fould tramp it vnder his feete; confesses that he said, he repented his subscription therof; bot denyed the rest. The Presbyterie being informed that Mr. Williame Tulliedaffe and Mr. Gilbert Murray were present the tyme quhen he spake these things, and being present, were desired if they wold declare quhat they knew therein presentlie; quho consenting, and he

allegding nothing againſt them, being ſworne to declare the truth, did depone as followes.

Mr. William Tulliedaffe deponed, that Mr. William Ayton being reaſoning with ſome ſtudents, (of quhom he was one,) they demanded of him, If he had ſubſcryved the band appointit to be ſubſcryved by the late Parliament? He answered, he never ſubſcryved any band bot ane, quhen he was at St. Leonards Colledge, and he repented his ſubſcription therof, and if he had that band he wold ryve it. It being replied, that nothing of publicke concernment was ſubſcryved at that tyme in the Colledge bot the Solemne League and Covenant. He answered, That ſame was it; and repeated the former wordes.

Mr. Gilbert Murray deponed, he heard him ſpeake malignantlie againſt the Solemne League and Covenant; bot did not remember the particular expreſſions he uſed, only that he called the Solemne League and Covenant a Band, and that he ſaid he repented his ſubſcryveing therof.

November 1.—Ayton.—The Presbyterie confiddering ſeriouſlie quhat Mr. Ayton hath confeſſed, and quhat is clearlie proven againſt him, doe judge it to be groſſe malignancie, and a breach of Covenant; bot he not being ſenſible of the ſinfulnes and guiltines therof, the Presbyterie referres his cenſure, and appoints Mrs. Samuell Rutherford, James Wood, and Andro Honyman, to conferre with him heiranent.

December 7.—Newton.—Compeired befor the Presbyterie Sir Johne Leſlie of Newton, one of the Senators of the Colledge of Juſtice, quho denyed that he did contribute for the Colledge of Juſtice ther Regiment in the late Engadgement vnder the condu&t of Duke Hamilton. For his ſonnes, quho wer commanders in that ſervice, he allegded, that one of them being vpon ſervice formerlie, and the other come to yeirs of diſcretion, they wold not be ruled by him. Confeſſed that he adhered to a Proteſtation at Couper againſt ane Supplication aggried vpon by the Comittee of Warre to the Parliament, for which he profeſſed greife. All which things confiddered, and his caſe applied to the A&t of the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, and ther explanation, the Presbyterie did debarre him from renewing the Solemne League and Covenant, receaving the ſacrament of the Lords Supper, or having any power or voyce in any of the Judicatories of the Kirk till the nixt Generall Aſſemblie.

December 13.—The draught of the Declaration appointed to be subscribed by these who subscribed the Protestation, was read and approved. The tenour quherof follows.

Copie of the Declaration against the Protestation.—Wee vndersubscribers being now convinced in our consciences of the vnlawfulness and sinfulness of the late Engadgement against the kingdome of England, vnder the conduct of Duke Hamilton, as a most foule and haynous breach and violation of our Solemne League and Covenant, according to the many and frequent testimonies given against the same, both by declarations of the Church, and the faithfull preaching of the ministers of Christ, whose wordes the Lord hes confirmed by the iust and vnparalleled stroke of his judgement vpon it; and being sensible how great a guiltines we have drawn vpon ourselves, in being accessorie to the promoteing and advancement of the said Engadgement by joyneing in and subscribing a Protestation made at Couper against a most humble Supplication of the Committee of Warre, all the Presbyteries, the most part of the Burrowes of this shyre, and the Unversitie of St. Andros, given in to the Parliament, humbly desiring that no engadgement in warre should be vndertaken, vntill all amicable and peaceable wayes of aggriment with England should be essayed, securitie had for religion, and other iust desires of the Church satisfied;—Doe heirby sincerely declare our deepe sense and heartie sorrow for our said guiltines, vtterly disallowing, renouncing and detesting the said Protestation, and our subscription therof; and doe promise, by the grace of God, that for all tyme comeing we shall adhere more closely and constantly to our Covenant, and keepe ourselves from all courses prejudiciall to the ends therof; and finally, more conscientiously to hearken to the faithfull warnings of the servants of God from his word. In witnes quherof, we have subscribed these presents with our hands.¹

December 19.—Malignant Women.—The Presbyterie considering how

¹ A great number of all ranks were at this time brought before the Presbytery for their accession by word or deed to the "Unlawful Engagement," and received sentence according to their degrees of guilt. Those who were debarred from the Communion, &c. were afterwards received into the bosom of the Church, upon declaring their repentance in the presence of the Congregation, and subscribing this Declaration.

scandalous it should be to admitt women to sweare the Solemne League and Covenant, or to the Communion, who are known to be malignantlie affected, for removeing whereof it is ordained that ministers in their severall congregations try anent such women. And where the scandall is publicke, and proove therof cleare, such women, before they be admitted to the Covenant or Communion, are appointed to give declaration of their repentance for that sinne in publicke before the congregation. And where the scandall is not so publicke, nor particulars so clearlie known, Ministers are appointed to deale with such in private, to bring them to a sense of that sinne, and accordingly to accept or debarre them from the Covenant and Communion.

Januar 31, 1649.—Cambo.—The quihilk day, Sir Patrik Myrton of Cambo did present a petition subscribed by him, declaring sorrow and greife for his accession to the late unlawfull Engadgement, craving God pardon for his sinne therein, promising by the Lords assistance to walke more circumspectlie and watchfullie in all tyme coming, earnestlie desiring upon his repentance to be admitted to the Covenant and Communion : Which things seriously considered, the Presbyterie did appoint him to make publicke declaration of his repentance before the congregation, and to subscribe the Declaration against the Protestation, and thereafter to be admitted to the Covenant, and to receive the sacrament of the Lords Supper.

Rankeilor.—Thomas Rankielor in St. Andros called, compeired not. These things being found to be clearlie proven before the Session of St. Andros against him : That he said, that it was better for vs when we lived under Prelacie than now, for then we payed but one taxation in the year, but now we pay monthlie ; That the King desired but thrie Bishops in England, quihilk was very reasonable ; That he would not goe out to fight for ministers, nor no other who would bidde him ; and that he said, The subscribing of the Covenant brought ane vengeance upon the land. The Presbyterie did judge these things to be gross malignancie, and doe debarre him from taking the Covenant, or receiving the sacrament of the Lords Supper, till he be made sensible of his guiltines ; and being made sensible therof, is appointed to make declaration of his repentance in the publicke place therof in sackcloth.

March 28.—Stipends and number of Communicants.—The Presbyterie having vsed diligence for getting the stipends of the severall ministers in ther bounds, and the number of communicants, the particulars therein not being as yet exactlie done by everie one, the rest is referred till after the Provinciaall Assemblie.

Apryle 25.—The quhilk day the Presbyterie did admitt my Lord Balcarras to the renewing of the Solemne League and Covenant, quho did folemnelie sweare and subscribe the same befor them.

May 2.—[Mr. Thomas Wood, minister at Ferrie Partoncraig, dimits his charge on account of bad health.]

June 28.—Highland Boyes.—The Presbyterie doe appoint everie brother to delyver to Mr. James Wood the fourtie shillings appointed to be paid for intertaineing Highland boyes at schooles.

August 1.—Abercromby.—The quhilk day, ther was represented to the Presbyterie grosse miscarriages committed by my Lord Abercrombie, in striking ane elder and the kirk bedell in that paroch, for warneing his Ladie to compeir befor the Session of Falkland; quhilk considered, the Presbyterie doe appoint him to be fummond to compeir befor the Presbyterie this day fyftein dayes, for these and his scandalous intemperance, and other scandalous miscarriages. And, in the mean tyme, that the Session of Abercromby may justlie delay to vse any further fumonds against my Ladie, violence being offered and done to the messinger, till some other course be advysed vpon for fumonding her.

August 8.—Civile Courts for Ecclesiasticke matters.—The Presbyterie does seriousslie recomend to ministers and sessions that they be carefull to establish the civill Courts for ecclesiasticke matters in ther severall paroches, and carefullnes in trying ther diligence in these things recommended to them.

August 15.—Act for putting children to Schooles.—The Presbyterie being informed that diverse parents, even in these places quher schooles are settled, doe not put ther children to schooles, doe appoint ministers, in visiteing families, to take notice quhat children are in everie familie fitt to be put to schoole, and to vrge the parents to it, and incace it be not done, that they complain of ther neglect heirin to the session; and if sessions omitt to vrge them to it, that it be recommended to the Presbyterie.

September 12.—Abercrombie.—After the Presbyterie had sent brethren to conferre with my Lord Abercrombie, anent his beating the Elder of that Session, and the kirk beddell in executeing his office, and anent his frequent excessse in drunkennes, he compeired himselfe, and did confesse frequent grosse intemperance, and professed willingnes to submitt himselfe to the Presbyterie for his scandall therin. As for the strikeing of the Elder and Kirk beddell, he acknowledges he did beate them, bot not in relation to execution of Kirk laues; and promised to be carefull to forbear the lyke in all tyme comeing. As also, he did promise and vnder-take to the Presbyterie, that his Ladie shall goe to the Session of Falkland, and ther clear herselfe of that scandall alledged against her, and to produce a testimonie therof from the minister of Falkland, befor the ensewing Provinciaall Assemblie. The Presbyterie did lykewayes admonish him for his scandallous absenting himselfe from Gods worship in his owne congregation, and for intertaineing ill and scandalous companie; both quhilk he promised to amend. He did lykewayes present a subscryved paper, declaring that he had now a great sence of the sinfulness of the late vnlawfull Engadgement, and of his sinfulness in acceffion thervnto, humbly desiring, seeing he is shortly to goe off the kingdome, he may be admitted to declare himselfe publickly in these things, and so be reconciled with the Kirk of God and his people in this land. All which things seriously considered, the Presbyterie, to convince him that it is not his shame befor the world they are seeking, bot his good, that he may turn from the evill of his wayes and doings to the Lord, doe appoint him to be wisely and gravely admonished, on Sunday come eight dayes, in his owne paroch kirk, for all these forementioned finnes, and mainly for his activitie in the late sinfull Engadgement; and he, professing his griefe and sorrow for all these, and promising to behave himselfe better in all tyme comeing, is to be received and appointed to subscryve the Declaration of the Generall Assemblie.

December 6.—St. Andros Visitation.—The quhilk day the Presbyterie convened for visitation of the kirk of St. Andros, quher Mr. Walter Comrie did preach.

Intimation was publickly made to the congregation of this Visitation.

The minifters being removed, the elders were fworne to declare quhat they knew of ther minifters as falbe enquiryed ; and thereafter removed and called in feveralie and examined anent the foundnes, clearneffe and power of ther doctrine, there catechizing, vifiteing of families, care to have Gods worfhip fett vp in families, anent a care to have finne punifhed, anent the vprightnes of ther converfation : In all which they did fullie approve them.

The elders removed, and the minifters called and examined feveralie, did everie one of them approve ther colleagues as faithfull and painfull in ther callings ; as alfo, did approve the elders in holding hand to difcipline, particularie that the prefent Magiftrates gave good affiftance for cenfuring fcandalous perfons : Only the elders are exhorted to be diligent in obferving, and faithfull in dilateing, common fwearers, and fuch as live intemperatellie, and Sabbath breakers.

The Presbyterie, in vifiting the condition of the paroch of St. Andros, towne and landward, both pafors and people, having received ample teftimonie of the fidelitie and painfulnes of Mr. Andro Honyman, and confidering that his prefent mantenance is incompetent, whither in regard of the eminencie of the charge, or living in fuch a deare place, and that he can nocht well be removed hence, and that it is incumbent to them to fie how this may be remeided in ane amicable way, do nominate and appoint Mrs. George Hamilton, Colin Adams, David Forrett, Robert Bennett, the Lairds of Moncreiff and Erlfhall, or any thrie of them, to conveene at St. Andros vpon the 18 of this instant, with the Magiftrates, or fuch others as falbe nominate by the Counfell of the faid citie for agreeing vpon ane legall courfe how this may be constantlie remeided.

Having alfo feene and confiddered that Mr. Robert Blair hath not ane manfs, according to the A&ts of Parliament, and that ther be fome tacks of teynds long fince given out by his predeceffors, quherby he is prejudged in his mantenance, do appoint them to confidder both thefe particulars.

As alfo, ther being feveral parts in the landward paroch of St. Andros, lying at a great diftance from the kirk therof, by reafon quherof they feldome come to the hearing of the Word, and when they come cannot have a commodious place in the kirk for hearing the Word, the number

of the townes people being fo great ; which places lye neir other kirks, where they may be ferved more commodiouſlie for a tyme, till ſome conſtant courſe be agreed vpon ; ſuch as Bonytoun and Cartefuirdmylne to Dininow ; Nydie, Newtoun of Nydie, Clatta and Boonefield, to Kembak ; —doe appoint them to confidder heirof, and report ther diligence in all theſe things the nixt day.

Januar 2.—Abercrombie.—The Presbyterie doe ordaine the miniſters of St. Andros to delay the baptizeing of my Lord Abercrombies chyld till he cleare that ſcandall raiſed by him of his Ladie, according to the appointment of the Provinciall Aſſembly.¹

March 27.—Report of perambulation of the weſt part of St. Andros paroch. The quhilk day theſe appointed to perambulate the weſt part of the landward paroch of St. Andros, did report ther diligence as followes :—

March 20, 1650.—The quhilk day, Mrs. Patrik Skowgall and Alexander Wedderburne, John Martyne of Lathones, and James Bynning of Dininow, ruling elders, together with Mr. Robert Blair, miniſter of St. Andros, mett at Kinkepill, and from thence did perambulate the weſt parts of the paroch of St. Andros ; ſome places whereof they find above thrie myles diſtant from St. Andros, and verie evill way, eſpeciallie in winter, and others two myles diſtant from the ſaid kirk, of verie foull way alſo. As alſo, they find that the number of perſons to be tane charge of will be toward thrie hundreth ; and withall find no adjacent kirk to which moſt part of them can be convenientlie annexed. And therfor the perambulators foirſaid, having ane eye to Gods glorie, the advancement of the Goſpell, and the good of the ſoules of theſe people, declare this to be their humble opinion : That a kirk be erected in the moſt convenient part betweene Kinkepill and Over Strakinneſſe, where all theſe people of Kinkepill, Strakinneſſe Over and Nether, Nydie, Newtoun of Nydie, Clatto,

¹ *April 30, 1650.*—The quhilk day, my Lord Abercrombie had a child baptized, called James, befor honeſt witneſſes. The quhilk bairne (in my Lord his abſence) was preſented be the Laird of Kilbrackmond, quho oblidged and band himſelf, befor the miniſter and two elders, to answer and ſatisfie for any thing that heirafter ſhould be objected againſt the ſaid Lord his ladie, anent that ſcandall at Falkland.—*Kirk Sess. Rec. of Abercrombie.* Lady Abercromby was accused by the kirk-session of adultery with Sir Mungo Murray.

and Boonefield, may resort convenientlie, most part being about halfe a myle distant from that place, and the furthest about three quarters of a myle.

The Presbyterie, having heard and seriously considered the above written report, did appoint severall brethren to consider the bounds of the kirk of St. Andros, and compare it with the number of parochiners, and see, whither these people may be well accommodate there for attending publicke divyne ordinances, and report ther diligence afternoone.

Postmeridie eodem die.—These appointed to consider the kirk of St. Andros, whither all the parochiners, towne and landward, can be well accommodate for hearing the Word, receiving of sacraments, declared, That they find the kirk so disposed to the people of the towne and the Universitie, that they find no convenient place for these people in the landward for keeping publicke performances of worship therein, but least of all these formerlie nominate. The which report, together with the former, seriously considered, the Presbyterie finds it necessary, for the reasons above written, that there be a paroch kirk erected according to the former mentioned report, and referres and recommends the same to the Provinciaall Assemblies, that they may recommend and referre the same to the Generall Assembly for advancing so pious and necessary a worke.

March 27.—Diligence for changing Monday and Saturdays mercats.—The Presbyterie doe appoint the severall brethren in burghes, to deale with such as have not changed ther Mondayes and Saturdayes mercats to other dayes of the weeke, that they may doe the same *primo quoque tempore*.

Reference concerning purging of Sessions.—The Presbyterie considering how necessary a thing it is, tending much to the vindication of the government of Christs Kirk, and the advancement of the Gospell, that purging Sessions of ignorant and profane members be universall through the kingdom, and that a tyme be limited heirt, and Sessions obliged to report ther diligence to Presbyteries, etc., with peremptor certifications, doe referre the same to the Provinciaall Assembly, to be by them referred and recommended to the next General Assembly.

April 24.—Wilsons admission at Camrone.—The Presbyterie met at

Camrone, where Mr. Robert Blair did preach, Jer. 3, v. 14, and Mr. Alexander Wilfon admitted minister ther.

May 1.—Voluntar contribution for Stonehaven appointed.—The Presbyterie having confiddered the Petition presented the former day in name of the towne of Stonehaven, shewing the great prejudice that hath and may come to ships and barkes goeing alongs to, or comeing from the North fishing, through want of ane safe harbour ther, and ther owne inhabilitie for repareing and building therof, being twyfe burnt by the mercileffe, bloodie, excommunicate rebell, James Grahame; and therfor earnestlie supplicateing for some charitable supplie to the effect foirsaid, which is also affited by ane A&t of Parliament, and ane A&t of recomendation from the Provinciall of Angus and Mernes, together with a letter of recomendation from the Presbyterie of Mernes. The Presbyterie, confiddering the reasonableness of the desire, doe appoint the brethren to intimate a voluntar contribution in ther severall congregations, (and especiallie recommends the same to burghes in the coastfyde quho are most interest therin,) to collect and bring in ther contributions, to be delivered to William Gregorie appointed collector by them for that effect.

New Psalmes.—The Presbyterie received a letter with 22 copies of the late paraphrase of the Psalmes of David in meeter, which comeing late, is referred to the nixt day.¹

May 8.—New Psalmes to be intimate.—The Presbyterie having received copies of the new paraphrase of the Psalmes of David in meeter, and confiddered the same, doe appoint the severall brethren to make intimation of the practifeing therof in congregations and families, to beginne the first Lords day of June in this Presbyterie.

May 15.—Thanksgiving for the victorie against Grahame.—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, shewing, that Thurefday the 23 of this instant is appointed for a day of solemne thanksgiving to God for the late glorious and seasonable victorie against excommunicate, bloodie, perfidious James Grahame and his associates.

¹ This was the version of the Psalms by Francis Rous, revised by a Committee of the General Assembly, which was then authorized, and still continues to be used in the Scottish Church.

May 29.—Lyall suspended from eldership.—Compeired William Lyall, quho confest flighting the ordinance of the Presbyterie, and being found ignorant and stubborne, the Presbyterie did suspend him from the office of eldership till he give proof of better carriage; and appoints him to come to the Session and heir the sentence of the Presbyterie intimate ther, vtherwayes appoints it to be intimate out of pulpitt.

June 5.—Promiscuous Danceing.—All quho have not, are appointed to intimate the Act of the Generall Assemblie discharging promiscuous danceing.

June 12.—Anstruther excommunicate.—The Presbyterie having serioullie considered the atrocitie of Jhone Anstruther his sinneing, quho, being entrusted by diverse honest men with ane shippe and merchant goods, went away vnder Kirk censures, and did not offer satisfactioun according to order; and being away, did joyne with excommunicate accursed Grahame, and turned pirate vnder him, called in diverse seafareing men on ther lawfull tradeing, and examined them, requyred vnlawfull oathes of some, hath taken severall shippes, spoyled many honest men of ther goods, hath mocked God and his people latelie in professing publicke repentance for grosse malignancie proven against him; doe therfor appoint him to be summarlie excommunicate the nixt Lords day by the minister of Anstruther Easter.

June 19.—Report of perambulations of Couper and St. Andros.—Followes the Report of these appointed for perambulation of severall bounds in the Presbyteries of St. Andros and Couper.

June 18, 1650.—The whilk day mett, according to the appointment of the Presbyteries of St. Andros and Couper, in obedience to the appointment of the Synod, the brethren vnder writen, to witt, Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. James M'Gill, Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, and Mr. George Thomefson, and did perambulate the easter parts of the paroch of Serris, the paroch of Kembak, Darfie, and Logie, and the west part of the paroch of Leuchars, and did find as followes, viz. That Over and Nether Magus, in the paroch of Serris, extending the number of . . . communicants, are distant from the kirk of Serris two myles and ane halfe, having ane ill water twyfe to croffe, and but ane myle from the kirk of Kembak, of farre more commodious way, the number of the communicants of Serris being . . .

and the number of the comunicants of Kembak being but eight score. As also, having viewed the west parts of the paroch of Leuchars, viz. Easter and Wester Drone, Burntoun, Meadowburn, Pitcullo, Kittetie, Arditt, Haystoun, Couplahills, Lucklay, do find that Easter Drone is distant from the kirk of Leuchars two myles of verie foule way, and that it is but a myle distant from the kirk of Dairfie: also Wester Drone is distant from the kirk of Leuchars two myles and ane half of foule way, and within ane quarter of ane myle to the kirk of Dairfie, and that the number of comunicants in Drone Easter and Wester are about thriescore: also, that Pitcullo, Meadowburn and Burntoun, having in them about thritie comunicants, are two myles of verie foule way from the kirk of Leuchars, and about a myle either to Dairfie or Logie of good way; the number of the comunicants of Dairfie being threttine score, and the number of comunicants in Logie about thrie hundreth: also, that Arditt, Haystoun, Kittetie, Cuplahills, and Luckley, are two myles distant from the kirk of Leuchars, and within halfe a myle of the kirk of Logie; the number of comunicants in these places being above fourscore; the number of the comunicants of the paroch of Leuchars being about eleven hundreth. The humble opinion of the perambulators is, that Over and Nether Magus be disjoyned from the paroch of Serris, and annexed to the paroch of Kembak; and that Drone, Easter and Wester, shold be disjoyned from the paroch of Leuchars, and annexed to the paroch of Dairfie; that Pitcullo, Meadowburn, and Burntoun be disjoyned from the paroch of Leuchars, and annexed to the paroch of Dairfie or Logie, as the Comission, after hearing of the heritours and respective parochiners, shall find most convenient; that Kittetie, Arditt, Luckley, Cuplahills, Haystoun, shold be disjoyned from the paroch of Leuchars, and adjoyned to the paroch of Logie. In testimonie quherof thir presents are subscribed with our hands, day foirsaid, at Dron. *Sic sub.* Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. George Thomefone, Mr. James Makgill, Mr. Alexander Wedderburne.

June 26.—Anstruther.—The Presbyterie doe appoint the severall brethren to intimate the excommunication of Johne Anstruther.

Holland.—As also, the severall brethren are appointed, by publicke intimation, to warne ther people of a vagabond ignorant fellowe, called Johne

Holland, quho professes to give phyficke, and hath deceived diverse, that they beware of employing him, and that nane in these bounds fall refett him.¹

July 10.—Graemfay and Couper.—John Graemfay and Andro Couper confest that being taken by Johne Anstruther, they did sweare ane oath to him; quho, being verie ignorant, are referred to be dealt with by ther ministers, and the Presbyterie againe to confidder them with others quho fall be found in that case.

July 17.—Moneyes delhyvered for levyng ane Regiment of Horse to the present Service.—The Presbyterie convened occasionallie for delyvering ther severall proportions toward the levyng a regiment of horse for the present service, as followes; Mr. James Bruce 100 merks, Mr. Robert Bennett 100 lib., Mr. Colin Adams 100 merks, Mr. David Guthrie 100 merks, Mr. George Hamilton 100 lib., Mr. Henrie Rymer 100 lib., Mr. Robert Wilkie 100 merks, Mr. Robert Weyms 100 merks, Mr. James M'Gill 100 lib., Mr. Patrik Skowgall 100 lib., Mr. Walter Comrie 100 merks, Mr. Alexander Wedderburne 100 lib.

July 31.—Report of discharge of Moneyes.—Mr. Archibald Porteous produced Mr. James Hamilton his discharge of eighteen hundreth merks received by him for the levie of ane regiment of horse to the present service, given by the ministers of this Presbyterie to that effect. As also, the brethren following produced his discharge of the proportions following; Mr. Robert Blair 200 merks, Mr. David Forrett 200 merks, Mr. James Sharp 200 merks, Mr. Andro Honyman 100 merks, Mr. Johne Heart 100 merks.

Exhortation to Brethren.—The Presbyterie, confiddering the great danger to Religion, Covenant, King, and Kingdome at this tyme, by the invasion of the Sectaries, exhorted the severall brethren, not only to be earnest in prayer to God themselves, both in publicke and private, bot that in tounes the people be convened everie day to publicke and solemne prayer, quhen ministers are at home and in health; and that landward a day be sett apart for publicke solemne prayer in the Congregation, befyde ther ordinar

¹ Holland was an English mountebank living at Anstruther, whose "deceit being discovered, the people were prohibite to resort to him."

dayes; and that people be exhorted to private humiliations in families, and secreteit also by themselves.

Prayer against the Sectaries.—The brethren spent the rest of this day, both befor and afternoone, in solemne prayer to God, for a blessing to the vndertakings of this Kirk and Kingdome against the unwarrantable invasion of the present enemie, quho hath perfidiouſlie forsaken the Covenant and oath of God.

August 7.—Black and Wyde.—Mr. Colin Adams to conferre with William Black and Andro Wyde, for informeing them of the sinne in subferyving that oath in Orknay called THE ERLE OF MORTONS OATH.¹

Smith.—Compeired, Isbell Smith in Kylrinnie paroch, quho confest shee vsed charmeing wordes, and being altogether ignorant, is discharged to vse those wordes, and appointed to make publicke acknowledgement of that sinne befor the Congregation thrie dayes. As also, Margret Gregorie and Margret Kynneir, confest shee vsed these wordes for them: They are appointed to declare ther sence of the sinfulness of countenancing such wickednes befor the Congregation also.

September 3.—Occasionall Meeting of the 4 Presbyteries.—The Presbyterie, considdering how necessar it is, in this sadde tyme, that the severall Presbyteries meitt together, both for themselves and giving ther advyce to the meettings of the shyre, doe appoint a letter to be sent to Couper, another to Mr. Alexander Moncreiff for Kirkaldie, for advertiseing these Presbyteries, and Mr. Alexander Moncreiff to advertise Dunfermline, to meitt at Couper vpon Friday nixt.

September 17.—Solemne Humiliation.—The quhilk day the Presbyterie

¹ The islands of Orkney and Shetland were ceded by Charles I. to William, seventh Earl of Morton, in 1643. Although the oath here alluded to is termed THE EARL OF MORTON'S OATH, the Editor, after considerable inquiry, can discover no grounds for applying it to him, or to his son who succeeded him in 1649. But there is some reason to suspect that it refers to Patrick Stewart, Earl of Orkney, who was executed in 1615 for his rebellion in Orkney, and his lawless and oppressive acts against the poor inhabitants of those islands. The rebellion was raised at his instigation, while prisoner in Dunbarton Castle, by his bastard son Robert, who administered to his followers "grit Aithes maid upon their suordis to die and leve with him aganis all manner of persones, his Maiestie our sacred Souerane nocht being exceptit."—PITCAIRN'S CRIM. TRIALS, 1615.

received a Letter from the Comiffioners of the Generall Affemblic, appointing a Faft to be kept vpon the defeate of the armie, for the caufes formerlie fent; which is appointed to be intimate, and the caufes red the nixt Lords day, together with a fhort Declaration received from them this day; and the folemne humiliation to be kept on the Lords day come eight dayes, for the foirfaid caufes.

The brethren are requyred to be earneft in exhorting the feverall paroches to fend out ther levies of new or old forces to Stirling, for oppofeing the enemie.

Condoleing and encourageing of Lumisdeane.—The Prefbyterie doe appoint Mr. Samuell Rutherford, Mr. Colin Adams, and Mr. George Hamilton, to vifite Sir James Lumisdeane the morne, for condoleing his cafe and encourageing him to ftedfaftnes, being ane prifoner at this tyme.

October 23.—*To try anent any accefforie to the Kings late efcape, etc.*—All the brethren were exhorted to try of any in thefe bounds quho have beene accefforie to the Kings Majeftie his late efcape, or to the late rebellion in the north, and report ther diligence theirin from tyme to tyme.

October 30.—*Charitable collecdion for our prifoners in England.*—The Prefbyterie having received a letter from the Comiffioners of the Generall Affemblic, fhewing the fadde condition of our prifoners in England through famine and nakednes, and that they, with advyce of the Committee of Eftaites, have concluded a voluntar contribution through the feverall Congregations of this Kirk for ther releife; The Prefbyterie doe appoint the intimation heiroy the nixt Lords day, to be collected the Sabboth following; in the meanetyme, to advife with the Provinciall Affemblic anent the fecureing heiroy, for the vfe foirfaid.

As alfo, they received another letter from the faids Comiffioners defiring, that not only the Comiffioners heir bot other brethren wold attend the nixt meeting of the Comiffion at Stirling, their being buffines of great importance both to Kirk and State to be agitate then, which was feriouflic recomended to brethren.

The Prefbyterie takeing to their further confidderation the former letter of the Comiffion, anent the Enormities of Minifters, and the Remedies therof, doe as yet referre it to be confiddered till Monday nixt.

Warning.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie received a Warning from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, concerning the Malignants in the North now in armes, appointed to be red in the severall Congregations heir.

November 4.—In answer to the letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, concerning the Enormities of Ministers and the Remedies heirof, the Presbyterie did begin with this overture:—

The Presbyterie confiddering with sadde regrate, that notwithstanding of a settled Ministrie of able and well gifted men in this place of the country, their is amongyft the greater heir, not onlie litle of the power of godlines to be found, bot even great ignorance and profanitie; doe referre to the approaching dyat of the Provinciaill Assemblie, to confidder the causes and remedies heirof on Ministers part, and that they wold appoint some of everie Presbyterie to meitt for confiddering heirof, and to report their diligence to the nixt Synod.

December 11.—Lundie.—The quhilk day, compeired the Laird of Lundie, quho being serioufflie examined, denyed expresse any acceffion either to the Kings late escape or to the rising in the North, or any foirknowledge of these things, and that he was only in Dundie at that tyme visiteing his brother the Erle of Lauderdale, quho remains their.

December 23.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie received ane A& of the Comission of the Generall Assemblie, dated Perth December 14, 1650, referring to them Johne Erle of Laurerdaile, that they may try the evidence of his repentance, for his acceffion to the late vnlawfull Engadgement against the kingdome of England, and that thereafter they may receive him to publicke satisfackion for that offence. And lykewise received a petition from himfelfe desiring that he may be admitted to testifie his repentance for his acceffion to that sinfull way, and be received to the Comunion and renewing of the Covenant.

The Presbyterie, having at length heard the said Erle of Laurerdaile, compeiring befor them, expresse and declare his sense of the sinfulness of that Engadgement in the nature and grounds therof, and having heard him humbly acknowledging his acceffion to that course, and sinfull forwardnes and activitie above many others in contryveing and carieing on the

ſame, withall teſtifieing his ſorrow theirfor, craving pardon of God for it, and promiſeing in his ſtrength never againe to owne that or the lyke courſe; and being heard anent the Kings Maieſtie his late eſcape, quherof for the moſt part he cleared himſelfe, yet in ſomethings therein his carriage being repreſented to him to be finfull, he acknowledged the ſame;—doe, after mature deliberation, find that they cannot reſuſe the ſaid Erle of Lauderdale to teſtifie his repentance publicklye, and to receive the Communion and ſubſcryve the Covenant according to the order preſcryved by the Generall Aſſembly; and therfor ordaines Mr. James Makgill, miniſter at Largo, to receive him to publicke ſatiffaction in the paroch church of Largo, vpon the day of ſolemne humiliation, and to receive his ſubſcription to the Covenant, and his ſubſcription to the Declaration appointed by the Generall Aſſembly 1649 to be ſubſcryved by ſuch as have been acceſſorie to that Engadgement.

Januar 15, 1651.—Rigs admiſſion.—The Preſbyterie mett at Ferrie Porton-craig, for admiſſion of Mr. Johne Rig.

Januar 29.—Hamilton and Glencarne.—The Preſbyterie receiving a reference from the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſembly, referring to them the Duke of Hamilton to be conferred with anent his acceſſion to the finfull and vnlawfull Engadgement againſt England, and another of the Erle of Glencarne to that ſame purpoſe, did appoint the Moderator, Mr. James Wood, Mr. Colin Adams, Mr. David Forrett, and Mr. Walter Comrie, to conferre with their Lordſhips this day.

February 12.—A letter appointed to be writen to the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſembly, bearing the report made by the brethren appointed to conferre with the Duke of Hammlton and the Erle of Glencarne; quho declared that they had received ſatiffaction.

February 26.—Anent inſolencies of Souldiers.—The Preſbyterie being touched with a depe ſenſe of the great diſhonour done to God, and fore oppreſſions of our congregations, cauſed by the vngodlye and inſolent behaviour of diuerſe ſouldiers quartered within our bounds, have reſolved to complaine to the Kings Maieſtie and Committee of Eſtates, and humble to ſupplicate for redreſſe and remedie heiroy: And therefore, doe deſire heritours or others in our bounds to come to their owne Seſſion the nixt

Lords day in the afternoone, and give in the names of such as are guiltie of abhominable curseing and fwearing, profaneing the Lords day by absenting themselves from publicke worship, staying in their quarters, or otherwayes are intemperate persons, or have scandalouslie opprest them by exacting, beyde quhat is due to commanders, moneys unjustlie for fouldiers that are not in regiments; or have beaten any for refuseing them what they did vnjustlie desire; that these may be represented to vs on Monday nixt. And appoints everie minister to intimate the same the nixt Lords day after forenoones sermon.

March 3.—Supplication to the King and Committee of Estates.—The Presbyterie convened for receiving the greivances of the severall paroches by the insolencies of fouldiers, which being heard and considered, they concluded vpon a Petition to be sent to the Kings Majestie and Committee of Estates for remedie heirof, and appointed Mr. James Bruce to present the same to them on Tuesday nixt.

Apryle 23.—Conference delayed.—The Presbyterie having formerlie appointed Mrs. Robert Blair, James Wood, and David Forrett to conferre with Mr. Samuell Rutherford, anent his judgement of the publicke resolutions for defence of Religion and the land against the enemye, vnderstanding that he is heavilie seeke, doe referre the said conference.

May 28.—Small.—The severall brethren are advertised to take notice of Helen Small, a leude loose woman come in their bounds, that shee be not permitted to reside amongst them.

June 3.—Anent a voluntar Contribution for the Armie.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie having received a Letter, together with ane A&t of Parliament, desiring a voluntar loane or giving of moneys, for expeding the Armie to the feilds against the comon enemye, and for defence of the land against ther vnjust invasion; and that Presbyteries wold stirre vp the people to this necessar duetie, for severall reasons contained in ther said A&ts and letter,—The severall brethren are appointed to vse ther diligence with the people in ther severall charges, to contribute willinglie and liberallie; and that the samyn be brought in tymeouslie vpon Fryday come eight dayes, and delyvered to James Sword, according to the order of King and Parliament.

July 9.—Intimation of excommunication of Strachen, etc.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie received a letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, desiring the intimation of ther excommunication of Johne Swinton sometyme younger of that Ilk, Colonell Archibald Strachen, William Dundas brother to the Laird of Duddingstone, and Lievtennant William Goveane, for ther compliyanse with the enemie quho hath vnjustlie invaded this land; and of Major Andro Abernethie, for rendring the Castle of Edinburgh treacherouslie to them—recomended to the brethren to be done.

September 1.—Letter to Moncke to be writen.—The Presbyterie mett occasionallie for advysing quhat is incumbent to be done by them in relation to certaine brethren latelie taken prisioners at Eliot, as Mr. Robert Dowglas, Mr. James Hamilton, Mr. Mungo Law, Mr. Johne Smith, Mr. James Sharp, Mr. George Pattullo, Mr. Johne Ratray, minifters, and Mr. Andro Ker, Clerk to the Generall Assemblie, did appoint a letter to be writen to Lievetennant Generall Moncke for ther releife, and a letter to the brethren for comforting and encourageing them vnder ther suffering; and Mr. Alexander Wedderburne appointed to goe with both.¹

October 20.—The brethren of the Presbyterie being conveyened, and laying to heart the present sadde condition of the Kirk of God in this land, and the dangers and confusions that threaten the established Governement and discipline of this Kirk, which is to them verie precious; as they resolve never to exceed the bounds of ther calling in meddling with maters civile or of peace or warre, so they doe find themselves bound in conscience and by ther calling to Declare:—

¹ In NICOLL'S DIARY OF TRANSACTIONS IN SCOTLAND, August 1651, is the following notice of the occurrence here alluded to. "This Kingdome, both Kirk and Stait, being alwayis devydit both in judgement and opinion, and one pulpit speiking aganes another, the enymie thair-upone tuik advantage, and gat mony opportunitis of victorie. And heiring that thair wes a Committee of the Estaites than halding at Eliot [Alyth] in the north, besyde Killimure or thair-about, the Inglishes finding this Committee to be cairless, wanting a gaird, or ony considerable assistance for the tyme, thai raid up fra Dundie quyetlie in the nycht, upon Thursday the 28 of August, come upone the Committee quyetlie in the morning, tuik thame prissoneris, and robbit thame of all that thai haid, and schippit thame toward England, quhair thai wer committit." P. 56.

First, That they doe vnanimously assert and hold the late Generall Assemblie begunne at St. Andros, and continued at Dundie to have beene a lawfullie constitute and frie Assemblie of this Kirk, as other approven Generall Assemblies of this Kirk.

Secondlie, That their is no meeting ecclesiasticall of quhatsoever name or nature in this land, that hath any warrand from God or man to claime any publicke ecclesiasticke authoritie over the said Assemblie or the Commissioners theirow; or to assume power in that capacitie or way to examine, or give any publicke judgement vpon the same, except another lawfull frie Assemblie of this Kirk; or yet to claime any power over the severall church judicatories of the land.

Thridlie, That vntill another frie Generall Assemblie may be had through the mercie of God, quhatsoever ecclesiasticall meeting, not having authoritie from the said Assemblie, fall assume to themselves the power of a publicke Kirk judicatorie over the congregations of the land; or fall take vpon them, as in that capacitie, to emitt Warnings, Letters, Remonstrances, Causes of Faits, etc.; or that fall presume to censure any person quhatsoever;—Is and fall be looked vpon and holden by this Presbyterie as ane vnlawfull meeting, ther authoritie as vsurped, and all ther acts of that kynd are and fall be holdin as deids of private men acting without a calling, and noways binding this Presbyterie, bot voyde and null befor God and man.

Fourthlie, That they will never countenance nor concurre with any such vsurped authoritie tending to the subversion of the established government of the kirk; althogh they doe heartilie approve conferences of gracious brethren quho follow after peace, and intend that way the repaireing of our woefull breaches.

Mr Patrick Scowgall appointed to correspond with Couper, Mr. James Makgill with Dunfermline, and Mr. Henrie Rymer with Kirkaldie, and to shew them ther foirsaid act, and the former appointment of ane Fast.

Marche 31, 1652.—Letter, Sharp.—A letter appointed to be writen in name of the Presbyterie to Mr. James Sharp, prisoner at Lundo; Mr. James Wood and Mr. Andro Honyman appointed to draw it vp.

October 13.—Mr. Alexander Edward admitted minister at Dininnow.

Januar 12, 1653.—Newburne.—The quhilk day, Mr. George Hamilton made report that, according to the order of the Presbyterie, he preached and keepest Seffion at Newburne the last Lords day; quher the Seffion did vnanimousslie nominate Mr. Robert Honyman, regent, to be their minister, and that the whole congregation gave their assent to the election. And the Seffion desired that he may be entred to his tryalls by the Presbyterie, in relation to that charge. The said Mr. Robert being called and heard, heirin submitted himselfe to the Presbyterie; quho appointed him to adde to the exercise the nixt day, and to handle the contraverfie *De merito mortis Christi*, as his adres will permitt.

Kembak.—Mr. Alexander Wedderburne declared, that the people of Kembak are desirous to heare moe young men befor they proceed to election. Mr. James Buglois appointed to preach ther the nixt Lords day.

Januar 26.—Mr. James Buglois, not having preached at Kembak the last Lords day, is desired to preach ther the nixt Lords day, which he vndertooke. And Mr. John Rig appointed to preach there the Sabbath following, and sie if the heads of families there will agree, and proceed to election of one of these young men they have heard.

Februar 9.—Mr. Johne Rig made report, that the heads of families in Kembak paroch most of them declared they were readie for election, only David Couper desired to heare moe yong men, and Kembak yonger protested against all. The Presbyterie appointed Mr. Laurence Charters to be writen to, and desired to preach there on Sabbath come eight dayes.

Kennedy.—The Presbyterie doe appoint the severall brethren to bring in the fourtie shillings appointed by the Provinciaill Assemblie for intertaineing Peter Kennedy, a blind boy, at the Colledge this yeir.

Februar 23.—The Presbyterie, being informed that Mr. Laurence Charters hath not preached at Kembak, nor is not to be expected at this tyme, doe desire Mr. Thomas Lenton to preach ther the nixt Lords day.

March 9.—Colvill.—The Presbyterie received a paper from Mr. Samuel Colvill, the answer quherof is delayed till he bring a testimoniall from the place of his residence before he came heer, as he was formerlie appointed.

March 23.—Master Alexander Edward made report, that he preached at Kembak the last Lords day, and betweene sermons convened the here-

tours, elders, and heads of families, for election of a minister, according to the ordinance of the Provinciaall Assemblie; quho, by pluralitie of voyces, out of these thrie they heard last, to witt, Mr. James Buglois, Mr. Johne Bairdie, and Mr. Patrik Peacocke, did choise Mr. Johne Bairdie¹ to be ther minister, desireing that he may be entred to his tryalls for that effect. The Presbyterie doe vnanimousslie approve the election; bot in regard of ane Act of the Generall Assemblie, vnto which Kembak alledges the election not to be agreeable, the Presbyterie doe referre the same to the Provinciaall Assemblie.

Apryle 27.—[Mr. Robert Honyman admitted to Newburne.]

May 18.—*Rutherfurds Paper.*—The paper given in to the Presbyterie, November 5, 1651, by Mr. Samuel Rutherford, cannot be found, that the Presbyterie may give ane answer therto, according to ther promise.

July 6.—*Wilson, Session Clerk, deposed.*—The Presbyterie having found Mr. Thomas Wilson, schoolemaster of Largo, and clerk to the Session ther, by his owne confession to be guiltie of curseing, by profane nameing of the devill twyfe vpon the Lords day, quhen the Communion wes celebrate, of bacheling faith in the face of the Session, and slighting his ministers admonition for the same; and lykewayes, having heard the minister and most part of the elders declare, that he is ane ordinarie taunter and tipler, judges him unfit for the charge quherin he is: And therfor, suspending him presentlie from his charge in the Session, they appoint him also to remove from the charge of the schoole betuixt this and Mertimes, and in the meanetyme to make publicke satisfaction befor the pulpit for his scandall.

August 17.—*Colvill.*—The Presbyterie, being desired by the Masters of the Old Colledge to testifie quhat is knowen to them concerning the behaviour of Mr. Samuell Colvill dureing his abode within the bounds of this Presbyterie, doe returne this answer:—That although it belongeth properlie to the ministrie and eldership of St. Andrewes (quher he hath lived ane great part of some yeirs past) to give particular testimonie of his behaviour, yet doe find it incumbent to them to declare, that they have oftymes bein

¹ Mr. Bairdie was, however, never inducted. Owing to disputes among the parishioners regarding the election of a minister, the church appears to have remained vacant from 1650 till July 1656, when Mr. John Wardlaw was admitted.

much offended with his levitie, vnsettlednes of spirit, and his disorderlie cariage toward his reverend Brother, presenting to vs raileing lybells against him,¹ for which he hath bein diuerse tymes gravelie rebuiked. And although he hath remaned so long a tyme in ther bounds, yet they have never to this day heard any good report of him, but very much anent his dissolute life and conuersation.

Sept. 21.—Discharge for Tinnmouth prisoners.—The quhilk day, Thomas Finlay presented a discharge subferyved by Lievtennant Dugud of 229 lib. 6 s. 8 d., received by him from the said Thomas for the vse of his fellow prisoners at Tinnmouth Castle. The Presbyterie appoints the rest of that contribution to be broght in with all diligence, and delyvered to the said Thomas Finlay.

Nov. 9.—Kembak.—The Presbyterie mett at Kembak for visitation of that kirk. The whole heads of families being called vpon and broght in, and being enqyred if they were not wearied of lying destitute of a ministerie, and if they were not desirous to be provyded with ane able and faithfull minister,—they professed thair earnest desire that the Presbyterie wold endeore ther speedie settling. Only Kembak laboured to persuade the people that the Presbyterie were come ther to prey vpon ther simplicitie. These present referred the confidderation of the busines to the nixt day.

December 21.—Dirigies.—The brethren, in ther severall charges, are exhorted to take notice of Dirigies after burialls, for suppressing them.

March 15, 1654.—Deafe.—The quhilke day, compeired befor the Presbyterie John Deafe in St. Andrews, quho being rebuiked for stubbornes and ignorance in confessing a fault of miscalling a woman, and not acknowledging sinfulness therein, is remitted againe to the Session ther.

Apryle 3.—The Presbyterie confiddering the lamentable ignorance of God, as amongst many others, so particularlie amongst these quho are hirds, doe referre that busines to the Provinciall Assemblie, that they may confidder of overtures for remeid heirof.

August 30.—Anent hirds keeping publicke worship.—The Presbyterie confiddering that hirds doe ordinarlie absent themselves from publicke ordi-

¹ Samuel Colvill, author of a Mock Poem, or the Whig's Supplication, was the younger brother of Dr. Alexander Colvill, a learned divine, who had been Professor of Divinity in the University of Sedan, and at this time filled the same chair in St. Mary's College, St. Andrews.

nances of Gods worship, vpon the Lords day, the whole summer and harvest tyme, do referre to the Provinciaall Assemblie how this renewed sinne may be remedied.

Oct. 4.—Anent decayed bridges.—The Presbyterie taking to their serious consideration the great decay of bridges in these bounds, particularlie the Bowbridge of St. Andrewes, the Innerbridge of Leuchars, and the bridge at Dairfie, did nominate ther brethren, Mrs. Robert Blair, James Wood, Andro Honyman, Walter Comrie, Patrik Scougall, and James Sharp, to consider of overtures for reparation of these and the lyke, to be presented to the Presbyterie the next day. And ane correspondent to be sent to the Presbyterie of Couper, anent the bridge of Dairfie.

October 25.—Decayed bridges referred to the Synod.—The Presbyterie, considering the great decay of bridges in these bounds, doe referre to the Synod to consider how they may be repaired.

February 7, 1655.—Cairnes permitted to marie.—The quhilk day, John Cairnes in Camrone paroch, presented a petition to the Presbyterie, quherin he professed to be convinced of the sinfulness of his former loose walking and conversation, and promised a more sober way of conversation afterwards; and supplicateing, that in regard he being a widow, and having diverse small and young children, he may be permitted to marie; quhilk was granted.¹

March 21.—Act for having the Byble, Acts of Generall and Provinciaall Assemblies, and of the Presbyterie at the Presbyterie.—The Presbyterie considering that for more clearnes in doubtfull cases, it is expedient they have at all tymes the Byble, the Acts of Generall and Provinciaall Assemblies, and of the Presbyterie, to advyse with, doe appoint that at all tymes these be brought to the Table quhen they sitt downe, and remaine ther till they close ther meeting.

May 30.—Edinburgh Collection.—The Presbyterie doe referre to the severall Kirk Sessions, the maner of collecting for releife of these quho suffered by the late burnings at Edinburgh, intreating it may be gone about with convenient diligence.

¹ John had been convicted of “fornication, blasphemie, ryotousnes, drunkennes, and abusing his neighbours,” and had been ordered to do penance, and debarred the communion.

Junij 27.—*Erlshall younger and Ladie Arnott ther proclamation stopped for 15 dayes.*—The Presbyterie having received ane appellation by Mr. James Reid of Pitlithie, from the Kirk Seffion of Leuchars, anent ther not stoppeing proclamation of bannes matrimoniall betuixt Andro Bruce, feear of Erlshall, and his daughter the Ladie Arnott, the Presbyterie doe agree, that the proclamation of the said bannes matrimoniall be stopped for fyftein dayes; partlie becaufe ther was too great rashnes in the parties in that busines; and seconddie, that parents on both parts may be dealt with in a freindlie way for bringing them to a good vnderstanding amongst themselves therin. Mr. Robert Blair and Mr. Samuell Rutherford, nominate to deale with Pitlithie, and Mr. James Bruce and Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, with the Laird of Erlshall elder.

Thomson intended bestialitie.—Compeired John Thomson, sometyme parochiner of Kembak, now resident in the paroch of Largo, quho declared, that be reason of trouble in his mynd, he reveiled to Mr. Robert Bennett a purpose of committing bestialitie with a meare, bot did not goe about committing that vnnaturall finne. The Presbyterie referred him to be instructed by the minister of Largo.

July 26.—Mr. Robert Macward, student in divinitie, desireing to enter to his tryalls, recomended for that effect by the joynt concurrence of the Masters of the New Colledge, gatt assigned for the first part quhairof, Rom. 5. v. 1.

August 1.—The private exercise in Rom. 5. v. 1, delyvered by Mr. Robert Makward, censured and approven. He is appointed for his further tryall to handle the contraverfie, *De praesentia Christi in coena.*

October 10.—No exercise, be reason that Mr. Robert Makwards theses were not delyvered at the Synod.

Mr. Robert Makward was desired to give in his theses presentlie, and being desired to attend Mrs. Colin Adams, David Forrett, Patrik Scougall, and Henrie Rymer, for conferring with him this day 15 dayes, after his delyverie of his commonheid, concerning his not joyneing in a fast appointed by the Assemblie 1655, and his joyneing in a protestation in the meeting of the Vniversitie against the choosing of Commissioners to the Generall Assemblie, becaufe indicted by a preceeding Assemblie of a cor-

rupt constitution; he refused the conference, because he thought to submit to a conference of that kynd a receding from that quhilk he formerlie owned, quhilk he mynded not to doe; and went away, not offering his theses.¹

October 10.—Havilland, Englishman.—A petition was presented by ane English gentleman, Sir Anthonie Haviland, having a passe from the Justice of peace in Northumberland, and a Scottis woman being his wife; in which Petition he represented his sadde condition, and desired some present help. In answer to which, the Presbyterie appoints everie brother to bring in some releife for him this day moneth at furthest.

Nov. 14.—Petition for prisoners at Halyrudhouse.—A petition was presented by Charles Areskine, from severall prisoners in the Abbey of Halyrudhouse, being in verie great distres, earnestlie intreating present releife; which petition was accepted, and the Presbyterie recommended that the brethren vse diligence with the severall Sessions for the obtaineing of something for ther help, and to advyse which shall be the fittest course to be taken for that effect, and an answer to be given this day moneth.

November 28.—Anent May guiltie of attempt of Bestialitie.—Mr. Alexander Wedderburne appointed to intimate to his people from pulpit, the Presbyteries diligence in enquireing after John May, guiltie of the attempt of bestialitie, and ther purpose of making search in other parts of the kingdome, withall desiring them againe if they know quher he is, to declare it to the Presbyterie.

Januar 23, 1656.—Mr. James Sharp, having represented to the Presbyterie his deepe sense of the weightie charge of the ministrie of Craill, and withall how impossible he found it to persuade the parochiners there to grant any constant and settled maintenance for ane actuall minister to be a fellow labourer with him in that worke; as also, how willing he found them, in respect to his bodilie weaknes, and dureing his owne abode

¹ Mr. Robert was, however, licensed by some other Presbytery, and appointed one of the Ministers of Glasgow. After the Restoration of Charles II. having preached against the "glaring defections of the times," he was arrested, tried "for sedition and treasonable preaching," and obliged to leave Scotland. He went to Holland, and was chosen second minister of the Scottish Church in Rotterdam, where he died in 1681, (Steven's History, pp. 28 and 336, Edin. 1833, 8vo.) He was the author of the *Poor Man's Cup of Cold Water*, and many other tracts printed in Holland during the times of the persecution of the Covenanters.

amongst them, to contribute somequhat yeirlie for the maintenance of any approven expectant quhom they pleased to choofe to be ane helper to him ; did crave the Presbyteries advyce, whither he might not accept of quhat was granted by them : which the Presbyterie, confiddering severall practises in the lyke case, thought he might faillie doe vntill more might be obtained.

Feb. 2.—Wardlaws Declaration.—Mr. John Wardlaw was present this day, and being interrogated, whither or noe he disowned the Comission anno 1650 as expyred, because of the two Generall Assemblies which followed immediatelie ? Answered affirmativelie. And the Presbyterie being satisfiied therewith, appoints Mrs. Robert Blair, Samuell Rutherford, Patrik Scougall, to deale with Brathins for furthering the plantation of Kembak.

May 21.—Vilants admission.—The Presbyterie convened at Ferrie-portion-craig for the admission of Mr. William Vilant to the charge of the ministrie at that place.

July 2.—The Presbyterie convened at Kembak for the admission of Mr. John Wardlaw to the charge of the ministrie ther.

July 30.—Mr. William Row, correspondent from Couper Presbyterie, desired advyce anent some Anabaptists in the paroch of Couper, quho wer laitlie rebaptized. The Presbyterie thinks fitt that the mater of the Anabaptists be represented to the meeting at Edinburgh.

September 24.—Symfone in Camrone.—Compeired, Andro Symfone in the paroch of Camrone, quho being challenged of drunkennes, denyed the same, although it was proven ; and appeared to be stupid and senseles of sinne and the censure inflicted on him ; being threatened with excommunication, it appeared not that he was moved therewith. The Presbyterie resolved, seing there were severalls in such a condition, to referre the mater in these to the Synod, that they might know quhat course should be taken with these, quho, after suspension from the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, were not weighted with the censure, and fell in new scandalls.

October 21.—Act for better keeping the Presbyterie.—The Presbyterie, being much weighted that many brethren were oft absent from the Presbyterie, others come late, and others having come doe withdraw themselves from the Presbyterie, did appoint that these quho wer absent, having no lawfull excuse, should be sharplie censured according to ther fault. And

besides, it was by consent agreed on, that the absents should pay eight shillings; these who come late 4s.; these that withdraw 2s. And if they should offer to excuse themselves, that before their excuse were heard, the money should be laid downe, and if the excuse were not found relevant, given to Mr. Henrie Rymer, collector of this money.

November 12.—Mure, Pyper.—The quhilk day, compeired John Mure, who was rebuked for being the author of much disorder by his pypeing; and warned, that if he shall be found afterward making disorder in any congregation within these bounds, recourse will be had to the civile magistrate for taking order with him.

Sanders and Bell recommended.—Thomas Sanders and William Bell, poore scholers in St. Andrewes, recommended to the severall Sessions, and it is desired that everie Session give them 20s. or two merks.

Private Censure.—The whole brethren present approven as faithfull and diligent in their calling, and of a holie and Christian conversation.

December 3.—Supplie for Grecian Ministers.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie [received] a Supplication from Anastasius Comnenus, a minister of the Grecian Church, together with some testificates anent himselfe and these for quhom he did supplicate, desiring some charitable supplie for his owne and other fyftein ministers, captives at Argiers, ther releife.

December 17.—Pittenweems Supplication referred.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie received a petition from the burgh of Pittenweeme, desiring help by a contribution, for the repaireing of ther harbor; desiring also a recommendation of ther sadde condition to other adiacent cities, burghes, Presbyteries and Synods. The Presbyterie referred the supplication to the Synod.

Jannuar 28, 1657.—Wood and Scougall to meit at Edinburgh.—The Presbyterie, being advertised that fundrie ministers are to meit at Edinburgh the nixt moneth, about somethings relateing to the government of Christs Kirk in this land, did nominate Mr. James Wood and Mr. Patrik Scougall for assistance and giving advyce therin.

February 11.—[Mr. Robert Honyman, minister of Newburne, ordained to be transported to Dyfert.]

Feb. 25.—Letter from Cathnes.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie received

a letter from the Presbyterie of Cathnes, by Mr. James Adams one of ther number, declareing the desolate condition of that corner of the countrey, by the paucitie of labourers in the worke of God ther, desiring the recomendation of some to help to supplie vacand congregations ther. The Presbyterie recommended this to the brethren nominate for the former busines with the ministers of St. Andrewes, to confidder heirof and report.

Apryle 22.—St. Andrewes.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie did receive a recomendation granted by the Synod in favours of the toun of St. Andrewes, for a collection for advanceing ther harbour and stone bridge that are both ruined. The Presbyterie, with ther owne consent, delayed it for a tyme.

September 2.—Conference appointed with Balcormo younger.—The Presbyterie being informed that John Arnot younger of Balcormo, continues in the grosse sinne of intemperance, notwithstanding the Lords hand is heavie vpon him in a greivous disease, and has laitlie confessed adulterie, doe nominate Mr. David Forrett and Mr. Robert Bennett to conferre with him, and hold foorth to him the danger of his finfull way.

September 16.—Dr. Colvill requeisted to write.—The Presbyterie, having sein and confiddered a litle booke latelie put to the presse by Doctor Colvill, did earnestlie requeist him to goe about more of that kynd.¹

Deposed Ministers referred to the Provinciall.—The Presbyterie, being certainlie informed of the great distresse and povertie quherin these Ministers quho were deposed in Angus are, doe referre the confidderation of ther case to the approaching Synod.

March 24, 1658.—Recomendation to Ministers, and reference to the Synod anent quartering of Souldieris.—The Presbyterie doe seriousslie recommend it to ministers in burghes, to deale als effectuellie as they can, with magistrates in ther severall respective burghes, that no souldiers be quartered in such houses quher women only remaine; and doe heirby referre to the nixt Synod how this may be helped throughout the bounds.

July 7.—The Presbyterie being informed that of late ther hath bein a

¹ This "litle book" was probably that entitled "De Loco Parallelo, obscuro et difficili Jacobi cap. 4. vers. 5 and 6, Prælectiones Quinque." Edinburgi, 1656, 4to.

buriall in the kirk [of Pittenweeme], contrair to A&ts of the Generall Affemblie, did difapprove the fame. The minifter and elders declared that ane a&t is paft in ther Seffion that the lyke fall not be heirafter.

September 1.—Fast appointed.—The Prefbyterie, confiddering the verie great vnfeasonablenes of the weather by a great raine in tyme of harveft, threatening to deftroy the fruites of the ground, did agree that ther fall be folemne humiliation and calling vpon God by prayer and fasting within ther bounds the nixt Lords day; and to continue the Lords day following, and therafter as neid fall requyre.

Mure, Pyper.—The quhilk day, diverfe brethren complained that John Mure, pyper, is ocaasion of much diforder in ther congregations, by his pypeing at brythells, and vnfeasonable drinkings. The faid John compeiring, the Prefbyterie difcharged him to play at any brythells, or at drunken lawings, with certification if he be found to contraveene, he will be proceeded againft with the higheft censures of the Kirk.

December 1.—Fairfull in St. Andrewes.—Compeared William Fairfull, quho confest, the fpeeches vttered by him anent the League and Covenant, and of the Minifters of Chrift, were verie rash and finfull, and did folemnlie vndertake not to be found in the lyke heirafter. The Prefbyterie doe appoint, that he be fpoken to anent thefe fpeeches publickly befor the congregation of St. Andrewes, and report to be made therof, and therafter are to confidder quhat further to doe theranent.

Februar 16, 1659.—Hamiltons admiffion.—The Prefbyterie convened at Newburne for admiffion of Mr. George Hamilton younger, to the charge of the minifterie ther.

Februar 23.—Anent Poland Protestants banished.—The Prefbyterie having heard of the diftressed condition of many banished Protestants in Poland and the confines of Bohemia, for whofe releife a voluntar contribution is neceffar, doe referre that bufiness to the nixt day.

March 2.—Principall of the New Colledge anent Rait.—The quhilk day, Mr. Samuell Rutherford, Principall of the New Colledge, did lay befor the Prefbyterie his verie deepe fenfe of the vacancie of the thrid Mafters charge in that colledge, and his verie earnest defire to have it planted with a godly and able man; and that he hath bein thinking, how to have Mr.

William Raitt, minister of Brechin, settled in that charge, earnestlie intreating the Presbyteries advyce and concurrence therin. The Presbyterie nominate Mrs. Robert Blair, James Wood, James Bruce, Andro Honyman, Alexander Wedderburne, with the Moderator, to conferre with the Masters of the New Colledge theranent, and to report the nixt day.

March 30.—*Colvill nominates Sharp for the New Colledge.*—The quhilk day, Doctor Alexander Colvill, professor of divinitie in the New Colledge, having laid out to the Presbyterie the great neid of having the thrid Masters place ther planted, did desire the Presbyteries concurrence for planting therof by Mr. James Sharp, minister of Craill.

Apryle 7.—Whereas both the masters of the New Colledge being verie sensible of the great neid there is, that the vacand place of one of the Masters of that Colledge be speedilie and well planted, earnestlie intreating the Presbyteries concurrence and advyce therin. The Presbyterie, being verie sensible how necessar it is that this be done, doe feriouslie and earnestlie recomend the mater to the Synod for advyce therin.

May 11.—The quhilk day, Mr. Samuel Rutherford declared to the Presbyterie, that he adheres to his nomination of Mr. William Raitt, for the vacand charge of the New Colledge.

May 12.—The Presbyterie, considdering quhat is referred to them in reference to planting of the vacand Masters place in the New Colledge, it being a weightie busines, and many brethren absent, the Moderator appointed to write to all the absent brethren, that a frequent meeting of the Presbyterie may be at the kirk of Kembak Tuesday nixt, at eight a clocke in the morning, for considdering heirof.

Junij 8.—The brethren desired to observe how the fynes imposed by Justices of peace vpon fornicators are employed, that the poore be not wronged of quhat is due to them by the law.

August 31.—The Presbyterie, considdering the great scandall committed by such quho having tokens allowed to them for receiving the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, doe not make vse therof themselves, bot give them to such as are not allowed by the minister and session to that ordinance vpon good grounds, doe appoint both the parties, in such cafes, to be publickly rebuiked.

Junij 6, 1660.—The quhilk day, Mr. Samuel Rutherford, Principall of the New Colledge, intreated the Presbyterie, and brethren ioyned with them for their advyce and concurrence, in planting the vacand charge in that Colledge by Mr. William Raitt; quho being removed, he did thereafter present a supplication to the Presbyterie and Commissioners of the Synod, desiring ther concurrence toward the calling of Mr. William Raitt, or if that be not obtained, that there be nothing done by advyce or otherwayes, in reference to the settling of the vacand place in the New Colledge, which may any wayes prejudice the full and free consultation and determination of a hoped for Generall Assemblie. The Presbyterie resolves to doe nothing that may prejudice the mater in a Generall Assemblie, or bind vp there owne hands from voteing frielie therin.

Junij 13.—*Advyce anent Sharp to the New Colledge.*—The Presbyterie, considering the minutes of the former day, touching the planting of the New Colledge, appointed the ensueing paper to be drawin vp, and approved of it as ther sence in that mater. Mr. Samuel Rutherford, Principall of the New Colledge, dissented from the paper, and desired a copie thereof vnder the Clerks hand, which was consented.

“Although the Presbyterie, and others ioyned to them by the Synod, desired the Masters of the New Colledge to give in quhat overtures they thought fitt to facilitate the plantation of the New Colledge, and the speakers quhat they had to speak in that mater, the advysing quherin was committed to them by the Synod, befor they shuld proceed to give ther advyce thereanent, and the said Masters were pleased to adde nothing to quhat they had formerlie spoken; yet efter they had withdrawn, and the Presbyterie had begun to give ther judgement, Mr. Samuel Rutherford, Principall of the New Colledge, came in, and presented a paper, desiring the Presbyterie either to concur with him in calling Mr. William Raitt, or els that they shuld doe nothing which might prejudice the libertie of the Generall Assemblie, quho had power to call to that station. In reference to which, the Presbyterie declares, that they think fitt to give their advyce in this mater, and that in order to obedience of the Synod calling them to it, and that ther giving ther judgment and advyce doeth neither as to ther intention nor vpon the mater prejudice the libertie of the Assem-

blie that hath power to call; neither mynd they by this ther advyce, (if it fall take no effect), to prejudge themselves or ther Commiffioners of any competent libertie of judgeing in this mater, according to ther calling in any Affemblic, quherof the Lord in his goodness fall give them opportunitie.

“The Presbyterie, having received ane A&t of the last Provinciaall Affemblic at Dunfermline, appointing them with some other brethren ioyned with them, to give ther help by ther advyce to the Masters of the New College, for the speedie plantation of the vacand professon of Divinitie in that Colledge, by some person fitted and qualified for that place, and confiddering that ther worthie brother Mr. James Sharp, minister at Craill, quho, for his pietie, learning, and prudence, is eminentlie fitted and qualified for that professon in this Seminarie of the Church, and that he is a man able to be speciallie vfeull to that whole Vniversitie, having bein for many yeirs a member and professor of philosophie in a colledge ther; as also, confiddering that he is vnder the jurisdiction of the Synod and Presbyterie, and may be more easilie and speedilie transplanted to that place than any other quho is not so, doe therfor give ther advyce to the Masters of the New Colledge to invite and call him to that place and professon, and doe promise to give ther concurrence therto to the uttermost of their power.”

November 7.—Derfy and Lathoker.—Sir George Morefone and Lathoker, referred by the Session of St. Andrews to the Presbyterie, for going to the single combate, were called and compeired not, are to be summoned to the next day.

November 28.—A letter from the Lord Chancelour and Earle of Rothes, for planting Mr. James Sharpe in the New College.—This day, the Presbyterie receaved a letter from the Lord Chancelour and the Earle of Rothes, in reference to the planting of the charge in the New Colledge, vacant by Mr. James Woods transportation from it, desires it may be filled by Mr. James Sharpe, and the rather because of an A&t of the last Synode relating to that buffines. The diligence heirin is referred to Dr. Colvill.

Januar 30, 1661.—The Presbyterie, confiddering that matters are now or may be in agitation, that concerne the interests of Christs Kirke in this

land, in the Parliament, doe appoint ther brethren Mr. David Forrett, Mr. Hary Raymor, to attend at Edinburgh and seek advyce, and do quhat may be for preservation of the interests of Christs Kirke in this land; and this without prejudice of the former appointment.

Februar 13.—Monnepennie captive among the Turks.—This day Thomas Monnepennie, 24 years captive among the Turks, was recomended to the severall Sessions.

Apryle 17.—Wheras, the Presbyterie, Apryle 1, 1661, condiscended vpon two Papers, the one intituled *A Supplication to his Grace his Majesties Commissioner*, the other, *A seasonable Exhortation, etc.*; to be referred and humbly offered to the consideration of the Synode, etc.; as followeth in the A& of reference, and that the said two papers being read once in the audience of the Synode, and the judgement of some members enquired therevpon, before the judgement and vote of the whole Synode could be had vpon them; the Synode was, by a noble man present at that tyme, commanded in his Majesties name, vnder the paine of rebellion, presently to rise, and was forthwith broken vp. And the Presbyterie, having now againe taken into serious consideration the saidis two papers, approves both of them; and that as to the matter and manner as containing nothing but that, which in ther judgement as just and necessarie to have been done by the Synode in this tyme, when fundrie wieghtie matters of the reformed religion recieved, professed, and practised in this Kingdome and Kirke are in apparent danger; and appoints the full tenour of the saids papers to be insert and registrated in the Presbyterie book, ther to remaine *ad memoriam*.¹

May 23.—It is appointed by the Presbyterie that everie brother of the ministrie within ther bounds on the nixt Lords day, after the forenoone sermon, signifie to ther respective congregations, that the Presbyterie having hard that the Estates of Parliament, by an A& proclaimed at the market crosse of some townes within these bounds, required that on Wednesday nixt, the 29 of this instant May, ther be solemne commemoration with thanksgiving for his Majesties happie restauration to his throne. The Presbyterie, being verie sensible of the great mercie of God towards

¹ These papers have not, however, been inserted.

these lands in breaking the yoke of the Ufurpers tirrany and oppreffion off the neck of his people in these kingdoms, and restoring to us our rightfull dread soveraigne, and his Majesties lawfull government; and being very willing to evidence and testifie upon every occasion ther loyalty and cordiall affection, which they, with the people of God in this kingdome, have always borne towards his Majesties person and government, and the persons and government of his royall predeceffours, hath appointed that every minister of this Presbyterie shall, the nixt Lords day, warne ther people to be assembled solemnely the said 29 day of May for hearing sermon, giving thanks to God for that his great mercy of restoring of our King to his just right, and for praying for blissings to his person and government, and that he may more and more be fitted to be a blissed instrument for preserving and premoveing the truth of Religion in these lands: And withall, that they do prudently informe ther severall people, that the observation of such dayes, for commemoration of such a singular mercie, doth not import any holyness in the day, such as God himfelfe hath put vpon the Sabbath day, which none but God himfelfe can put vpon any day.

December 4.—[Mr. John Middletoune admitted minister at Leuchars.]

December 18.—This day was received from the Sheriffe clearks a copy of the Secret Counsellis act for praying for the Queen, Queen Mother, and the Duke of Yorke; which they willingly yeeld obedience unto.

October 15, 1662.—The Presbyterie could not meete before this day because of the lawes and proclamations made by the State, inhibiting the meeting therof as formerly constitute.¹

December 21.—The whilke day, the Presbyterie mett at St. Leonards College kirke, and did admitt Mr. James Weems to the ministrie ther.

Craill, August 5, 1663.—[Mr. Alexander Edward transported from Dininow, and admitted minister at Craill.]

September 24.—[Mr. George Patullo transported from Newtyle in Angus, and admitted minister at Kingsbarns.]

September 30.—[Mr. John Auchenlaike transported from Inchturre in Angus, and admitted minister at Newburn.]

¹ There had been no meeting since 15 January previous.

November 11.—[This day, Mr. William Moore was admitted minister of Dininow.]

Aprile 20, 1664.—This day Mr. John Auchinlaikie, minister of Newburne, gave in a reference from ther Session to the Presbyterie, containing two scandals committed by Robert Fairfull, parishoner ther; first, in that he profained the sacred name of God, and in his discourse in the alehouse did make a mocke of the praises given by the congregation to the blessed Trinity, useing these words, "This to yow Brother, Glory to the Father, and the Sone, and to the Holy Ghost;" and desired George Fleeming to write in his letter, "Glory to the Father and the Sone," in a most contemptuous manner. 2dly, In that he called the publick reading of the Holy Scriptures, and the singing of Psalmes before the minister came to the pulpit, the Messe, useing these wordes, "They are buffie with-in at the Messe, and yon is the old Messe got up again." These scandals being judged by the Session to be too considerable for them to determine in, have referred them to the Presbyterie to be tryed by them, and have appointed the said Robert to attend ther meeting. The Presbyterie, after serious consideration of the said reference, appointed him to be called in before them. He not compeiring, they ordaine George Nairne, officer to the Presbyterie, to summond him *pro 2do.* against the nixt day.

May 4.—Robert Fairfull being called compeired, and being interrogated anent the accusations given in against him. As to the first article, consisting of two parts, first, in profaning the sacred name of God, and in his discourse in the alehouse, mocking at the Doxologie, useing the wordes as formerly set downe; 2dly, in desiring George Fleeming to write in his letter as before: The first he simplie denied; the second he granted he spoke, but for his vindication he said, "Ther are many which begin ther letters with Laus Deo;"¹ and he thinking that none wold offend at quhat he said, he desired his brother write so in his letter, because he saw him long in beginning of it. As for the second, his calling the publique reading of the Scriptures the Masse, he said, he wold neither deny it nor confesse it.

¹ "Laus Deo! was the first entry by merchants and tradesmen of our forefathers' days, in beginning their new account books with the new year."—*Hone's Every Day Book.*

The Presbyterie, finding him to prevaricate, appointed George Nairne to fummond the witnesſes againſt the next day.

Maij 18.—Robert Fairfull being called compiered. He, as formerly, perſiſted in denyall. The witneſſes fummond for to declare quhat they knew in his buſſineſs compiered, to quhom the Presbyterie ſignified, that they were hopefull to prevaile with Robert Fairfull another way, and therefore delayed the receiving of ther declarations this day. Robert Fairfull was appointed to attend the meeting of the bretheren at the Arch-biſhops houſe.

Junij 1.—Robert Fairfull referred back by the Presbyterie to the Seſſion of Newburne, and Mr. John Auchinlaikie is to make report to the Presbyterie quhat ſatiffaction he maketh to them.

Junij 15.—Mr. John Auchinlaikie, miniſter at Newburne, according to the Presbyteries order, made report that Robert Fairfull had ſatified ther Seſſion; quherupon the bretheren declared themſelves wel pleaſed, and are to proceed no further in that matter.

Julij 15.—This day, Mr. William Moore was admitted miniſter at St. Andrews.

Julij 26.—The whilke day, Mr. James Rattary was admitted miniſter at St. Mennans.¹

September 7.—The Presbyterie convened at Kemboke for the admiſſion of Mr. Robert Glafford.

September 21.—The Presbyterie convened at Carnbee for the admiſſion of Mr. Andro Bruce to be miniſter ther.

December 15.—The Presbyterie convened at Dininnow in order to Mr. John Barclay's admiſſion to be miniſter ther.

December 28.—This day, a letter directed to the Moderator from my Lord Archbiſhop was read, intimating as followeth.

ABBY, December 28, 1664.

REVEREND BROTHER,

WHEREAS we finde that Mrs. James M'Gill, Robert Weems, David Guthrie, Robert Bennett, Alexander Wedderburne do obſtinateſy perſiſt in ther way of ſeparation from ther bretheren, and contempt of authoritie, and diſobedience to the laws, to the great prejudice of the Goppell,

¹ He was depoſed in January 1682 for not taking the Teſt oath.

and scandal of the orderly ministers thereof; therefore we shall desire yow to make intimation to each of them, that if they do not appear at the nixt meeting of the bretheren of the Exercise, which is to be holden at St. Andrews the 11th day of Januarie nixt, and then declaire that they are resolved thence forth to concurre with ther bretheren in the exercise of the word and discipline, and accordingle give ther assistance as the law doth require in all ecclesiasticall meetings for suppressing of sin and edification of the Church of Christ in godliness and unitie, they are to expect, that after all Christian means used for ther reclaiming, we will forbear no longer to cause execute the sentence of the diocesian Synode against them. We recommend yow and the bretheren to the spirit and grace of Jesus Christ, in whom I am

Your loving Brother,

ST. ANDREWS.

An copy of which, with a letter from the Moderator, was sent to each of the aboue named bretheren by George Nairne.

Aprile 26, 1665.—This day was delivered to the Moderator the execution of the sentence of the diocefan Synode served att the Synodes command against the diffatified bretheren Mrs. James M'Gill, Robert Bennet, Robert Weems, Alexander Wedderburne, David Guthrie, which was red. They being absent as formerly, neither any report from them being made to the Presbyterie, ther places are vacand by the A& of the Synode, and are so to be holden.

May 10.—In obedience to the A& of the Synode annent the additional supplies for the Univerfities, these bretheren gave an account of quhat was ther modified stipends.

Mr. William Moore, minister of St. Andrews, 1200 merks; payes 36 lib.

Mr. John Auchinlaik, of Newburne, 4 chalders victual with 400 merks; payes 24 lib.

Mr. John Middleton, Leuchars, 7 chalders victuall and an halfe, with 40 lib.; payes 24 lib.

Mr. John Barclay, of Dininnow, five chalders victual and 80 lib.; payes . . .

Mr. George Patulo, Kingsbarns, 8 chalders victual; payes 24 lib.

Mr. Andro Bruce, Carnbee, 7 chalders victual, 180 lib.; payes 28 lib.

May 24.—These bretheren gave up the rentals of ther modified stipend:

Mr. James Rattary, St. Mennans, 6 chalders victual with 200 merks; payes 24 lib.

Mr. Alexander Edward, Crail, 10 chalders victual; payes 30 lib.

Kemboke stipend not being well known to the minister as yet, onely he thinks it to be four chalders victual with an 100 lib.

Junij. 14—Mr. Andrew Bruce junior admitted to the church of Kilrinny.

All the bretheren observed the thanksgiving on May 29, and the fast on the 7th June. It was informed also, that the bretheren who deny ther meeting with us, though they observed both, yet did not read the Proclamation.

Junij 28.—The bretheren are to consult what course is to be taken for causing the students in the New Colledge study carefully the Hebrew tongue.

Julij 9.—The bretheren resolve, in order to make the students in the New Colledge study the Hebrew, that none of them shall be approven in ther tryalls who cannot expound the first ten psalmes *ad aperturam libri*; and that the Rector give them notice thereof the next publicque lesson.

August 30.—This day, the Presbyterie mette at Forgane according to appointment, admitted Mr. John Alexander minister ther.

September 28.—This day, the Presbyterie frequently mette for admission of Mr. Alexander Younge to be Archdeacon of St. Andrewes.¹

November 15.—*Acts of the Synode*.—The Lord Archbishop and Synode taking to ther consideration that reference concerning Robert Small, and finding that the bretheren off Megill had done nothing in it, appoint that the bretheren off Dumfermline, and whosoever else have any evidences off divination, or unlawfull means off healing off diseases, or finding that which is losed or stolen, used by that man, that they send them to the bretheren off Megill betuixt this and the next Synode; as also, that the people who seek to him in thes unlawfull wayes, be challenged and censured accordingle be ther own ministers.

Januar 30, 1666.—Mr. John Middeltoune having asked the bretherens advise about guizers in his paroch, is referred to the next day.

Mr. Robert Glafford having told the brethren that his schoolmaster flatlie refused to obey the Acts off the Synod anent reading and singing the

¹ He was minister at Cramond.

Doxologie, and procuring a licence from my Lord Archbishop, the Presbyterie thought fitt he shuld be discharged of his office.

Februar 14.—Anent guizers in Mr. Johne Middeltones paroch, he is advised to proceed against them as scandalous persons; and iff they prove disobedient, to charge them before the Presbyterie.

March 14.—[Mr. William Ogilvey inducted minister at Newburne.]

Aprile 11.—Mr. Andro Bruce, minister off Carnbie, having dilated Margret Guthrie in the said parosch for the sinne off vitchcraft, and having proceeded against hir in the Session of Carnbie, did give in the processe, which is referred to the afternoon.

Post meridiem.—That processe which was given in in the fornoon by Mr. Andro Bruce, minister of Carnbie, against Margret Guthrie, scandalous for many yeares for vitchcraft, was read before the brethren, who fand in it a number of forceries and malefices made out against hir; and that notwithstanding of thes things made out against hir, she is obstinate. The brethren, becaufe off the veightines and difficultie off the matter, and the near approach off the diocefiane meeting, do referre the said processe to the Lord Archbishop and Synod.

May 2.—*Act for the Hebrew.*—For the stirring up of young men for the studieing of the Hebrew mor accuratlie, it is appointed, that whosoever shall not giv satisfactiōe in the Hebrew, in expōning anie of the first 30 psalmes *ad aperturam libri*, so much shall be signified in ther testimonies.

Guthrie suspect of Witchcraft.—Margret Guthrie suspect of witchcraft in the parish of Carnbie, who was referred to my Lord Archbishop and Synod, being put in firmance befor the Synod by my Lord Kellie, at the desire of my Lord Archbishop, the reference was not medled with by the Synod, bot left to the Presbyterie: Therfor the Moderator, Mr. Alexander Edward, Mr. Androw Bruce at Carnbie, and Mr. Alexander Leslie, ar appointed to deal with hir at ther own conveniencie, for bringing hir to a confessiōe, till the judge competent should dispose of hir.

May 24.—[Mr. Robert White, transported from Inchtute, admitted minister at Ferrie-parton-craig.]

June 13.—*Small.*—As concerning that reference relating to Robert

Small, the brethren appointed to conferre with him, Mr. Walter Bruce, Robert Honyman, Jon Auchenleck, and David Pattoun, reported, that by his own confeffione they find him guiltie of drunkenes, of prevaricatione, and of pretending skill in divining wher stollen goodes ar to be found, although reallie he hath non, and of abusing the name of God in his papers given out for finding these stollen goodes; and findes him sensible of his sinne, and forrie for it, promising, through the Lords strength, never to doe the lik againe. The Lord Archbishop and Synod appoint that he appeere befor som congregationes within the Presbyterie of Megill, confes his sin, and profess his repentance for it, and ingage himself to doe no mor so; and that this be intimat to all the congregationes within the Presbyterie; which the said Robert acquiesced to, and promised to doe whenever he should be appointed by the Presbyterie of Megill.

Inerkeithing.—The supplicatione of the magistrates and town counsell of the burgh of Inerkeithing, grounded upon the A& of the Lordes of Privie Counsell, for a voluntarie contributione throuhout all the parishes of the diocefs, for repairing of the ancient and usefull Herboire of the said burgh, was read, granted; and all the ministers within the diocefs wer appointed to intimat the said colle&ione, and gather the sam att ther first conveniencie, and to deliver the sam to ther respective Moderatores, that by them it may be transmitted to James Bennett, bailzie of the said burgh, collector of the said colle&ione.

Papistes and Quakers.—If ther be anie persones inclining to Poperie or Quakerism, they ar to be dilated to the Lord Archbishop, that a course may be taken with them.

Uniformitie.—Moderatores ar to take notice of the uniformitie of ministers in ther practise of causing the Creed to be recited at baptism, and of singing the Doxologie, and of making use of the Lords prayer in publick.

Sabbath profaned.—Wher the Sabbath is profand by men ryding upon that day, ministers ar to mak that knowen to the magistrates of that toun wher such horfe is hyred.

September 19.—*Advice anent Witchcraft.*—Mr. John Alexander askes the advice of the brethren what he shall doe with one Isobell Key, in the parish of Forgon, suspect of witchcraft and malefices don by hir? The

brethren desires he may giv in all that can be said against hir in writ, against the next day, and then they will be mor clear in giving him ther advice.

October 1, 1667.—Quakers of Fetteresso.—The minister of Fetteresso is appointed to go on with the censour of the Kirk against the quakers within his paroch, that he cause cit them befor the Presbyterie and Sescion, and if they be not reclaim'd from ther errours that he proceed against them with the highest censurs of the Kirk in dew maner.

November 20.—[Mr. Paul Methven admitted minister at Danunow.]

Aprile 1, 1668.—The Lord Archbishop declaired, that he had kept a visitation at Dumbfermling; that he had, upon good ground, deposed Mr. Robert Edmiftoun, minister at Culrofs; and as for Mr. Mathew Fleeming, his colleague, the Archbishop delayed to proceed against him, feing ther wer some hopes of gaining him; and for that end Mrs. Walter Bruce, William Perfone, John Shaw, are appointed to tell him that he is noticed that he hes not joynd with hes brethren of the Presbyterie.

Anstruther Wester, May 13.—The which day, the Presbyterie convened for the admiffion of Mr. David Taylior to be ministerie ther.

Gibb appointed to appear in Sackcloth at the Church door.—Mr. James Ratteray declaired, that he had been dealing with Marion Gibb, according as he was appointed, and that he found her still dissembling. The brethren appoint that Mr. James cause her appear at the church doore in sackcloth on the Lords day, from the ringing of the second bell till prayer before sermon be ended, and that then she go to the place of publicque repentance, if peradventure she may be winne therby, and that she remove before prayer after sermon begin.¹

Camerone, June 24.—The which day, the Presbyterie convened for the admiffion of Mr. James Williamfone to the ministerie ther.

June 30, 1669.—The which day, the Presbyterie convened for admiffion of Mr. John Christifone to the ministrie att Kembock.

Aprill 21.—Quakers.—The Lord Archbishop and Synod being informed that in Merns and in the parish of Fetteresso were kept severall conventicles by Quakers, who interrupted some ministers in the time of publicque

¹ She was accused of incest, which she afterwards confessed.

worship, and spoke reproachfully of ministers; the ministers ther wer advised to be diligent in watching over ther flocks, and guarding them against these errors, and wait till a course be taken by the magistrate with these disorderly persons.¹

The Lord Archbishop and Synod taking to ther consideration the supplication of the magistrates and towne councell of the brugh of Kirkcaldie for a collection to the building of the new harbour of the said brugh, which worke was interrupted through the troubles of the time; they grant the said supplication, providing the petitioners finde security that quhat money is delivered to them shall be bestowed on the said work; and appoint that all the ministers within the diocess collect for the said end as soon as conveniently they may.

It is appointed, that no minister be absent from his charge two Sabbath dayes together without leave from the Moderator, and that they give such an excuse of ther absence as shall be approven; withall ministers are to be carefull to provide for ther people quhen they are from home themselves. The Moderators are to enquire, if all the ministers within ther bounds preach twise each Sabbath, and if they ordinarily keep home.

October 6.—The Archbishop and Synod think that the Parliament is to be spoken unto for ratefying of the old A& for planting of schooles in each parish.

The Archbishop and Synod having a supplication from the towne of Couper presented before them, quherin they supplicate that a charitable contribution may be granted unto them throughout all the parish churches of the diocess, in regard, that upon the . . . day of Aprile last, a fire broke out accidentally in the said towne, about one after midnight, and destroyed about twentie considerable families, quite ruined ther whole houses, and brought the said persones to great straits; therefore, the said petitioners, having obtained an A& of his Majesties Secreet Counsell, for a voluntarie contribution to the supply of the said persons, throughout all the townes and parishes of the shires of Ffyffe, the three Lothians, Mers, Perth, and Angus; The Lord Archbishop and Synod, considering the pre-

¹ “*October 25, 1668.* This day, Thomas Craigie and John Durrett were before the pulpit for hearing two of the Quakers sermons att Urie, and were receaved.”—*Fetteresso Kirk Sess. Records.*

miffis, appoint that a charitable contribution be collected throughout all the parish churches within the diocess of St. Andrews, and that between this and Candlemais nixt, that collection be gone about and ended; providing alway, that the magistrates of Couper appoint faithfull and honest men to receive the same from the severall Moderators of the Presbyterie, (quho are to receive the same from the ministers,) and to see that the same be faithfully distribute to the persons damnified by that fire, at the sight of the magistrates and ministers, as they will be answerable to the Lordes of his Majesties Secreit Counsell.¹

May 11, 1670.—*Shallit supplied.*—This day, a supplication was presented to the Presbyterie by Paul Shallit, a converted Jew, wherein he desired the charitie of the brethren, in regard he was in mean condition, and minded forthwith to go into England if he had aney thing to bear his expence. The Presbyterie granted him his desire, and gave him some supply.

April 13.—The A&t of Parliament in favours of the brugh of Dondie, for a voluntar contribution to them, for reparation of ther herbour and great losf of shippis through the storme in O&tobor 1668, [being read,] the Archbishop and Synod resolve to take this to ther consideration, and to appoint a tyme for that collection.

October 5.—The Lord Archbishop and Synod, being informed that some persones go to the Border and marrie ther, conteming the order of the Church, judge that they should be delated to the civill magistrate, that they may be fined according to law, and that they be put to a publicque declaration of ther repentance, and be suspended from the sacrament, for violating the order of the Church; and that ministers be carefull to give in the names of such persons to the Synod att the nixt meeting, and quhat they have done in ther censure.

May 3, 1671.—The A&t of Parliament of the date 23d December 1669, appointing a contribution for the Incorporation of the Scotts att London, being read, the Archbishop and Synod ordaines, that this contribution be

¹ A similar supplication, which was also granted by the Synod, was presented the same day from the town of Kilmarnock, bearing, "that quheras upon the 22 of May 1668, the whole towne was burnt unto ashes by a violent fire that accidentally broke out, and about 120 families were cast out of all habitation, and brought to poverty and beggery."

intimate and gathered by all the ministers of the diocess, both in burgh and land, between this and the next Synod.

The supplication of the burgh of Dondee, Kilranny, and St. Monance, for contributions to the repairing of their harbours, are to be taken to consideration in due time.

November 8.—The which day, the Presbyterie convened in order to the admission of Mr. John Wood to the ministrie at Kilranny.

Aprile 3, 1672.—[Mr. Andrew Auchinlaikie admitted minister at Din-innow.]

December 4.—*Isbel Lyndsay rayling on my Lord St. Andrews.*—Doctor Moor represented to the brethren, that Isbell Lyndsay, spouse to John Wilfone in St. Andrews, who was banished the towne by the magistrats, for his rayling against my Lord Archbishop in time of Gods public worship, having returned some weeks agoe to the towne, and being connived at in hope of his future good behaviour, yet notwithstanding, had the last Lords day faue one, uttered some reviling speeches against the said Archbishop and his Lady at his entry to his sermon, to the great scandal of the congregation; and therfor was immediatly incarcerated by the magistrats.

The Presbyteries resolution thereanent.—The brethring, seriously considering the greatnes of the scandal, and the bad preparative and ill example thereof, thought fitt to advise with his Grace anent their duty in relation therto, and resolved, to goe immediatly to the Abby on that effect, and to meett tomorrow.

December 5.—*The Presbyterie appoint sume to confer with him.*—The brethring being mett, and being left by the Archbishop to their own prudence to act in that matter as they thought convenient, so that God might be glorified, and the scandal remoued, and the person brought to a sense of his guiltines, ordained the Moderator, the ministers of St. Andrews, St. Leonards, and Creil, to confer with him in prison, and to indeavour to bring him to a sense of his sin; and to report the next day of our meeting, which is to be on the 1st of January next, in respect that Christmes is this day twenty dayes.

January 1, 1673.—*The Brethrens report anent Lyndsay.*—The brethring appointed to confer with Isbel Lyndsay, reported that she was obstinate,

and that the magistrats had resolved to inflit civil punishment on hir, and banishe hir the toune; wherfor, the brethring appointed Doctor Moor to labor to bring hir to convi&ion befor hir remouel; and if she shuld stit continue obstinate and malicious, to declare the haynousnes of hir sin befor the face of the congregation, and desire them not to be scandalized by hir wicked example, and that she was a person incapable of discipline, and unworthy of christian society.

Kilconquer, 19 November.—[Mr William Hey admitted minister there.]

Kembok, 4 June 1674.—[Mr. George Landels admitted minister there.]

Forgan, 12 August.—[Mr. William Scot admitted minister there.¹]

October 27.—*James Lodian*, &c. *sumond pro 3^{to}*.—Anent James Lodian and his wife Elizabeth Key, and Helen Heggie, not only scandalous for keeping of Conventicles, and soliciting of others to the like disorderly practises, but also guilty of withdrawing themselves from Gods publick worship eury Sabbath, and contempt both of the Word and sacrament of the Lords Supper, and of the publick ministry, both in doctrine and discipline, in that parish of Kingsbarns, and profanatione of the Lords day, now for a long time; the minister declared, that the said James Lodian was so far from acknowledging his finnes, or promising to waitte upone Gods publick worship, and receauing the sacrament as ane indispenfable duty, that he wold not suffer the word of exhortatione, but added this to his former sins in reviling the minister, and calling his doctrine rayling. Therfor, he had not only fumoned his wife, and Helen Heggie, and James Lodian, pro 2^o by his beddall, as was ordained, but further, they were appointed to be fummond pro 3^o.

July 21, 1675.—This day, Dr. Edward reported, that thair was on Geilles Robertfone, in the toune of Craill, suspect of witchcraft, and imprisoned vpon that account; and therefore defyred, that some of the brethren might be appointed to assist him in conferring with her. The bretheren appoynt the Moderator, Mrs. Wood, Dauid Falconer, Dauid Tailzeour, Johne Auchinlek.

August 18.—Anent Geillis Robertfone, the bretheren that wer appoyntit to conferre with her, report, that they could gaine no confessioun from

¹ He died in October 1677.

her. Dr. Edward is appoynttit frequentlie to conferr with her during the tyme ſcho ſould be kept in priſone.

September 11.—Anent Geillis Robertſone, Dr. Edward reports, that thair is no appearance of her confeſſioun. The bretheren having conſidered her former confeſſiouns, quhairof they wer informed by Dr. Edward and utheris, and alſo theſe quho wer appoynted to conferre with her, hauing heard her owne daughter, and a ſiſter of her ſonne in law quho was ſick, and imputed her ſicknes vpon pregnant preſumptiones to a maleſice of hers; and that ſcho ſpok nothing that tended to the clearing of her ſelf: The bretheren, finding that theſe were ſufficient groundis for them, vnto quhom ſuch a dewtie belonged, to crave a commiſſioun for her tryall, apoynt Dr. Edward to deſyre that the magiſtrats of the toune wold ſeik a commiſſioun for her tryall.

September 15.—Anent Geillis Robertſone, Dr. Edward reports, that in reſpect thair wer no actuall magiſtrats in Craill, thair was no courſe takin for obtaining a commiſſioun for her tryall. The bretheren thought that this was a duetie incumbent vpon the honneſt men of the toune to ſeik a commiſſioun, as is the uſe and cuſtome in ſuch caices quher ther is no magiſtrats; and therefore deſyre Dr. Edward to putt her confeſſiounes *in mundo*, and delyver them to honneſt men, who might carry them over the water, for obtaining a commiſſioun for her tryall.

September 29.—Anent Geillis Robertſone, Dr. Edward reports, that he had obeyed the Preſbyteries ordour the laſt day *vt ſupra*.

December 27.—Anent Geilles Robertſone ſuſpect of witchcraft, Dr. Edward, miniſter at Craill, reports that ſcho is now dead.

November 16, 1676.—*Acts Synod.*—The A&s of the Synod being this day delyvered, the bretheren wer appointed to conſider who wer the moſt notorious ringleaders in withdrawing from the publick ordinances in ther own pariſh, and in procuring diſorderly baptiſms or mariage, that ſome ſeu of them might be proceeded againſt to be a terror to the reſt; and to give in ther names againſt the nixt day, in obedience to the A& of the laſt Synod.

Pittenweem, July 19, 1677.—[Mr. Andrew Bruce tranſported to Pittenweem from Carnbee, on the death of Mr. Hamiltone.]

November 14.—[Mr. Edward Thomfone admitted minifter at Anstruther-Eafter.]

Kingfbarns, January 3, 1678.—[Mr. Gilbert Symfone, minifter at the Caſtle of Edinburgh, admitted to Kingfbarns.]

St. Fillance, January 16.—[Mr. Alexander Sharp, fometime minifter in Ireland, indu&ted to St. Fillans.]

Cameron, January 30.—[Mr. Andrew Flooker admitted minifter there, in room of Mr. James Williamfone.]

Ely, May 8.—[Mr. Alexander Wilfon admitted minifter there.]

Carnbee, September 16.—[Mr. James Gairns, minifter at Balmirino, tranſported to Carnbee.]

St. Fillance, September 25.—[Mr. James Strahan, Regent in the Old College, indu&ted to the miniſterie of St. Fillans.]

St. Andrews, May 14, 1679.—The which day, the Prefbitry mett heer but without any exerciſe or additione, in regard of the diſorders and confuſions all wer in, becaus of that horrid Murther committed upon the perſone of my Lord Archbiſhop of St. Andrews.

Newburn, September 17.—[Mr. William Sym, minifter of in Galloway, recommended by my Lord [Biſhop of] Edinburgh, vicar generall to the Sea of St. Andrews, tranſported and admitted to Newburn.]

St. Andrews, October 29.—*No Exerciſe.*—The which day, the Prefbitry mett in the Town Kirk, but without any publick exerciſe, in regard that Dr. Moor, who was appointed to have it, did yeſterday preach by appointment from my Lord St. Andrews at the tranſlation of the Archbiſhop of Glaſgou to the Archbiſhoprick of St. Andreus, and confeſecration of the Biſhop of Argil. He is again appointed to have the exerciſe, and Do&tor Falconer the additione.

September 1, 1680.—*Duncan, ſcolder.*—Mr. Andreu Auchinleck reports, that in his parochin of Dinninou, ther is on Cathrin Duncan guilty of ſcolding and abuſing hir nighbours, who refuſes to give ſatiffa&tion before his congregation for the ſame. She is appointed to be ſummond againſt the next day.

September 15.—Anent Catharin Duncan *ut ſupra*, Mr. Andreu Auchinleck reports, that nou ſhe hath given ſatiffa&tion, by acknowledging hir crim before the congrega&tion at Dininnou.

Carnbee, April 27, 1681.—The which day, the Presbitry mett heer in order to the admiffion of Mr. Alexander Lundie, late minifter at Oruel.

November 16.—This day, the Archdeacon, Moderator of the Presbitry, produced to the brethren a commiffion he had receaved at Edinburgh, of the date November 8 instant, from the moft reverend Father in God my Lord Archbishop of St. Andrews, his Grace impouring him to adminifter the Oath and Test appointed by the current Parlament to the feveral brethren of this Presbitry; which was publickly read in ther audience. He produced alfo the exprefs fens wherin the clargie of this kingdome ar appointed and allowed, by his Royall Highnes and the Lords of his Majefties moft honorable Privie Counfell, to tak the faid Oath and Test. This a&t for explaining of the Test to be takin by the clargie, being publickly read in the hearing of the brethren, and maturly confidered by them, they did all unanimoufly agree and consent to give obedience to the law, in fwearing and fubfcribing the faid Oath and Test in the fens above exprefte, and that on the 23 day of this instant; on which day they appointed to affemble themfels, at ther ordinary meeting place in St. Andrews, *in hunc effectum*.

January 4, 1682.—The Archdeacon produced a letter from my Lord Archbishop of St. Andrews, allowing him to receauue unto the communion of this church Mr. James Canneris,¹ who had apoftatized to the popifh religion fome years agoe, and was now earneftly defyrous to make profeffion of his repentance, and to be readmitted to the fellofhip of his mothers church; this order from my Lord Archbishop careing exprefly in it, that his reception fhould be performed folemly, and with the advice of the brethren in this Presbitry. Accordingly, the Archdeacon having propounded the matter to them, they unanimoufly agreed that he fhould be receaved publickly in the church of St. Andrews before the congregation,

¹ In 1684 James Canaries published a volume, at Edinburgh, entitled, “A Discourse representing the fufficient Manifeftation of the Will of God to his Church in all its feveral Periods and Dispensations.” 12mo. pp. 296. It is dedicated to the Chancellor, Earl of Perth. The author alludes to his ftill lying “at the Pool of Preferment;” and fays, “my circumftances are fuch as make me yet depend upon the World for my fortune in it.” Next year, however, he printed “A Sermon, preachd at Selkirk, upon the 29 of May 1685,” in which he ftyles himfelf “Minifter of the Gospel there.”

on the 25 of this instant, which is the next meeting of the Presbitry, and that intimation be made therof to the people from the pulpit the Lords day immediatly preceeding; which was accordingly done.

St. Andrews, Januar 25.—This day, the brethren being frequently convinced, Mr. James Cannoris was received in this maner following:—

The whole brethren of the Presbitry were set at a table before the pulpet, and the penitent in a chear behind them; then the Archdeacon went up to Readers dask, and, after calling upon the name of God, he discoursd concerning the occasion of that meeting, and gave the reasons wherfor it was thought fitt that this buseness should be transacted publikly; and also represented to the people briefly the manifold advantages which the Protestant Religion hath of Popry, the Protestant faith being a religion more ancient, more pure, more peacable, and more reasonable then that of Rome.

Then the Archdeacon cald up the penitent from his seat to stand by him, that he might be the better heard and seen of the people: Where the penitent discoursed at great lenght of the temptations he was under to make defection to Popry, and of the motives, convictions, and inducements that made him, after some time, nauseat that religion, and earnestly desire that he might have occasion to renunce it, and embrace and profess again the orthodox religion of Protestants; both which he did publikly and at large at this time.

After which, the Archdeacon required him to goe down to his former place, and ther, upon his knees, to creave pardon of God for his apostasie, and for the offence and scandale he hath given therby to this reformed church, and to bege earnestly that he might be readmitted unto its communion and fellowship; which he accordingly did.

Then the Archdeacon cald all the Doctors and Prisbyters present by name, to give their opinion and judgment concerning what they had heard from him, and to declare their mind, whither they thought he might be received upon this profession of repentance unto the bosome of this Church; unto which all of thame unanimously agreed. The Archdeacon also cald to the whole people then assembled, that if they had any thing to object against the penitents reception, they might presently declare the same.

But none of thame ofred to make any opposition ; and therefore the Archdeacon proceeded, and, with the consent of his brethren, admitted him to the fellowship of this Church, and in testimonie therof did take him by the hand, as also the rest of the brethren did.

Then the Archdeacon solemnly obtested and charged him in the presence of God, angells, and men, that he should never declam [decline ?] again unto the Popish errors and superstitions, which he had now solemnly renounced ; and he made him publicly promise, with upleasted hand, that he should persist all the days of his life in the trew reformed Protestant Religion as it is at present established by law in its doctrine, discipline, and government in this Church and Kingdome, and that he should adorne the same with a holy life and conversation. Then the Archdeacon closed the action with prayer, and dismissed the people with the blessing.

Kemback, Februar 22.—The Presbitry mett here for the admission of Mr. Alexander Edward to be minister at this place.

March 22.—The Archdeacon produced to the brethren a recommendation from my Lord St. Andrews in favours of a Grecian gentleman called Francesco Pollani, who hath two brothers and a sister in miserable bondage at Tripoli, that they might, in order to their relief, gather a voluntary contribution in their severall congregations ; which they undertook to doe.

St. Monance, May 24.—[Mr. Andrew Burnet admitted minister there.]

Newburne, August 16.—[Mr. Andrew Youngsone inducted minister here.]

September 13.—The collection for the peer of Bruntisland, and the bridge of Dumbartowne, was again recommended to the brethren.

Carnbie, May 23, 1683.—[Mr. John Falconer admitted minister there.]

Kilconquhar, Sept. 24, 1684.—[Mr. Alexander Hay admitted minister.]

Craill, October 22.—[Mr. Alexander Leslie, minister at Cyres, translated to Craill.]

Newburn, September 16, 1685.—[Mr. James Hay admitted minister.]

Anstruther Easter, August 5, 1686.—[Mr. William Moncrieff admitted minister.]

St. Andrews, November 9.—[Mr. John Wood admitted minister.]

ATT ST. ANDREWS, APRIL 18, 1693.

The Provinciaill Synod of Fife met at Dumfermline, takeing unto their confideration, that there are now a competent number of minifters in each of the tuo Presbyteries of St. Andrews and Cupar, who formerlie were united in one Presbitrie, and that both the Presbitries were defireous to be difjoyned again, and to aët separatlie by themfelves, did, by their aët, bearing the date the fixt of April I^m vj^e and nintie three years, difjoyn the faid Presbitries. As alfo, by the faid aët they appointed the firft diet of the meeting of the bretheren in the Presbitrie of St. Andrews to be at St. Andrews upon the eighteen day of this prefent moneth of April; as the faid aët at more length beares. And they, being mett accordinglie, did make choife of Mr. Thomas Forrefter to be their Moderator for this feafon, and of Mr. Hugh Kemp to be Clerk.

After prayer. Sederunt. Mr. Thomas Forrefter, Moderator, Mr. Alexander Pitcairn, Proveft of the Old Colledg, Mr. William Tullidaff, Principall of St. Leonards Colledg, Mr. James Drummond, Mr. William Wardrop, Mr. John Arthur, Mr. Walter Wilfon, Mr. William Hardie, Mr. Hugh Kemp, Cts. Elders, the Laird of Grangmure, William Jack, bailie in St. Andrews.

May 2.—Mr. Wood depofed.—This day, the execution of the laft fummonds given to Mr. William Wood, late incumbent at Deninnow, was prefented to the Presbitrie; and they haveing cauf'd call him three feveral times, at the moft patent church door, he compeared not, nor anie in his name; upon which the Presbitrie, for his contumacie, did depofe him *fimpliciter* from the exercife of his miniftrie.

June 7.—The bretheren of the Presbitrie of Cupar, for the moft part, were all prefent here, to confult with this Presbitrie anent the takeing of the Oath of Alleadgance and fubfcriving the Affurance to their Majesties King William and Queen Mary, impofed by authoritie upon all the minifters within this kingdom. But they left the final determination of this affair to the more generall meeting of the bretheren within the bounds of the Synod, which is fhortlie to be kept at Kirkcaldie.

October 5.—[Mr. Robert Fairweather ordained minister at Carnbee.]

August 1, 1694.—*Reference to the Synod anent the goeing of Salt panns.*—Mr. Patrick Coupar informing the Presbitrie of the great abuse committed on the Lords day by the goeing of Salt panns in the toune of Pittenweem, and craveing their advice herein ; and they confidering that this abuse is not onlie peculiar to that place, but generall through many parts of Fyfe, they thought fitt to referr it to the Synod for advice, that fo a joynt courfe may be followed for fuppreffing thefe abufes.

Cameron, December 13.—[Mr. John Olyphant admitted minister there.]

Anftruther-Wefter, May 1, 1695.—[Mr. Thomas Black inducted minister there.]

Leuchars, Julie 3.—[Mr. George Gordon admitted minister there.]

October 30.—*Affair anent Beatrix Laing delayed.*—The Presbytrie having heard a propofal from Mr. Patrick Coupar for advice anent a fcandal, tabled before their Seflion, againft one Beatrix Laing, concerning a charm ufed by her, and finding the matter weightie, and they fo ftraitened with time, the confideration of it is referred to the nixt dyet.

Februar 26, 1696.—[Mr. George Hamilton, minister at Newburn, translated to the parifh of St. Leonards,¹ and made Principal of St. Leonards College.]

Petition James Tod.—The Presbitrie takeing into their confideration a petition given in by James Tod, defireing that they would take notice of a charm ufed againft his fon, by Beatrix Laing in the towne of Pittenweem, They appoint Mr. William Hardie, Mr. Walter Wilfon, Mr. James Drummond, and Mr. Robert Fairweather, to meet at Pittenweem on Weddenfday next with the Seflion there, and to continue their diets, as they fhall find caufe, for making fearch and inquire in that affair ; and to doe everie thing that fhall be found neceffarie for getting clearnefs therin, and to report the next diet.

April 1.—*Report anent David Tod, &c.*—As to the affair relating to

¹ Mr. Hamilton, as minister of Newburn, was outed on the restoration of Episcopacy in 1661, and appears to have resided in London till he was called by the Presbytery in January 1694 to resume his charge. He resigned the principality and ministry of St. Leonards in November 1696 ; and was transported to Edinburgh in 1697.

charms in the toune of Pittenweem, Mr. Patrick Coupar, minister there, reports, that the bretheren, according to the Presbitries order, did meet there, and made inquirie into it, and that David Tod, the partie pursueing, did faile in his probation laid in against Beatrix Laing, whom he pursueing for useing a charm against his son. This report being considered by the Presbitrie, they found that they could proceed no further in it at the time.

Julie 22.—[Mr. Robert Cleiland admitted minister at Newburn.]

May 4, 1697.—[Mr. Patrick Tullideph ordained minister at Ferrieportoun-craig.]

Julie 7.—Likewise, the said Mr. Thomas Forrester, desired the advice of the Presbitrie, what he should doe in censuring some persons who were convi&t before the magistrat of theft, and resetting of stoln goods, and were accordinglie punished by them. In answer to which, they advise that they be called before the congregation, and there openlie rebuked for their sin.

September 1.—[Mr. John Anderson, minister at Leslie, transported to St. Leonards, and appointed Principal of St. Leonards College.]

September 2.—[Mr. James Knox admitted minister at Deninnow.]

September 15.—[Mr. Alexander Shields ordained minister at St. Andrews.]

March 16, 1698.—*Anent the Centesima.*—The Presbitrie considering, that by ane A&t of the last Synod held at Kirkcaldie, it is recommended to the respective Presbitries to choose a collector for gathering the Centesima of ministers stipends to be bestowed upon the widows of deceased ministers or their children; and being ignorant of what other Presbitries have done in this affair, therefore they judged it fitt to delay this till after the next Synod, that it may be known what steps other Presbitries have taken in this affair, that so they may take such measures as they shall find most convenient.

Anent Archibald Reddie.—The Presbitrie takeing the affair of Archibald Reddie, (a person proceß'd, for useing charmes in administering cures to sick persones and cattal, before the Synod), into their consideration, and finding, that it is recommended by the last Synod to ministers to inquire

what of that nature hath been done by him in their particular charges, according to what information they can hear of this matter; and the bretheren being asked if they had any information to give in against him; Mr. Patrick Coupar gave in ane information in write, as it was declared before the Session of Pittenweem; as also, Mr. Thomas Black gave in another as it was declared before the Session of Anstruther Wester. Both which papers are to be given in by the clerk to the Synod when it meets. And the Presbitrie appoints the rest of the bretheren who can have any information from their Sessions concerning the said Archibald Reddie his using of charms in his giving of cures, to have them in readiness against the Synods meeting, that all may be presented together.

March 16.—Anent a Woman reputed a Soothsayer.—The Presbitrie taking into their consideration, that it was remitted to them by the last Synod to raise a process against a woman in the parish of St. Andrews, who is reputed to be a soothsayer, and to proceed against her as they should see cause. And now, being informed that she is gone out of the bounds, they know not whether, they find that they can do nothing in this affair.

May 4.—Anent the Woman reput a Soothsayer.—The Presbitrie having informed the Synod, that the woman delated for a soothsayer in St. Andrews parish is now gone out of the bounds, and that it is not known whether: Upon which it was recommended to all the bretheren within the bounds of the Synod, that if she could be found out in anie of their respective congregations, to cause apprehend her, and to send her back to St. Andrews, that so she might be made to answer before this Presbitry for what is charged against her.

August 10.—Supplies.—Mr. Shields reports, that he had occasion to speake with Mr. William Dunlop, Principal of the Colledge of Glasgow, and with Mr. James Broune, minister there, who told him, that they have no young men at present to spare, either to this or anie other Presbitrie.

Report anent the Soothsayer.—As to that woman who lived once in the parish of St. Andrews, and reputed to be a soothsayer, Mr. John Olyphant reports, that latelie he had a letter from Mr. James Broun, minister in Glasgow, shewing that she was in their bounds, and when challenged, pro-

duced a testimonial, which she said was granted to her by the Session of Cameron, and that he desired to know if the Session of Cameron had granted that testimonial. The said Mr. Olyphant reports also, that he wrote back a letter to Mr. Broun, shewing in what circumstances she was in with this Presbitrie, and that she had feigned that testimonial. The Presbitrie having heard and considered the said report, they found they could proceed no further in this affair at the time.

September 21.—Anent Archibald Reddie.—This day, was presented and read a minut of the last Synod concerning Archibald Reddie, which is as follows :

ATT ST. ANDREWS, 6 APRIL 1698, *hora 3^{ia} post meridiem.*

Anent Archibald Reddie, under process before the Synod for charming, &c., this Provincial Synod appoints the ministers within their respective bounds, to give publick intimations from their pulpits, for all the people to forbear consulting him, under the paine of incurring severe censure, and that he shall find cautione to the Presbitrie of Kirkcaldie at their next meeting, to answer their disciplin. As also, the Synod appoints that the persones who have already employed him within the bounds of the Synod, shall be censured, as the respective Sessions shall see fitt. This voted and appoven, he was summoned *apud acta* to compear before the Presbitrie of Kirkcaldie at their next meeting ; and in face of the Synod, the said Archibald Reddie promised to forbear anie future practisising in his former sinfull wayes for the time to come.

Sic subscribitur,

WILL. MACKY, *Cl. Syn.*

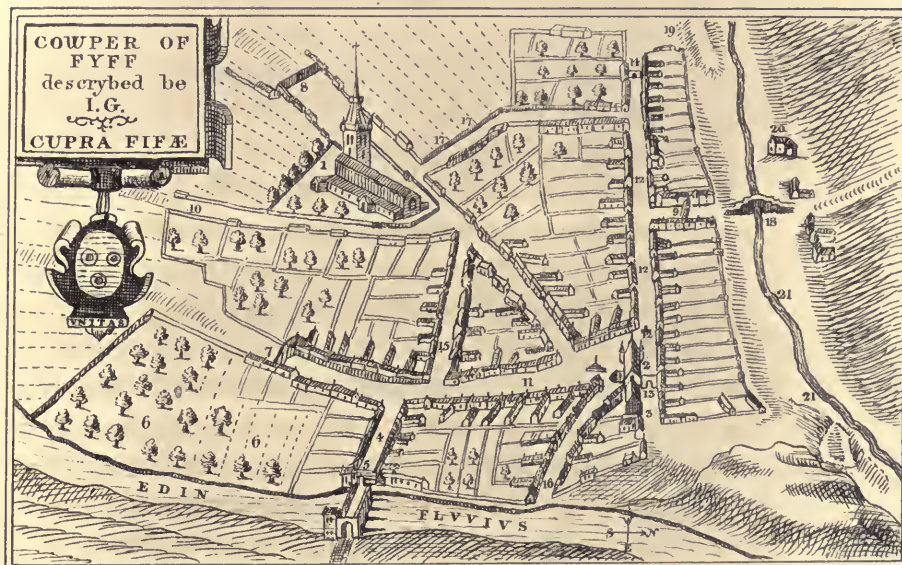
Which being considered by the Presbitrie, they did, and hereby doe recommend it to the bretheren, to give obedience to the said Act, in so far as it concernes them.

Anent the goeing of salt pans on the Lords day.—The Presbitrie being informed, that it will be verie needfull, in order to the suppressing the profanation of the Lords day, by the goeing of salt pannes, that the Synod would address the Justices of peace to interpose their authoritie for the said effect. Therefore, they referr this affair to the Synod, for their concurrence herein.

October 5.—[Mr. John Wood, minister at Kilrinnie, dimitted his ministry.]

THE PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR,

1646-1660.



- 1 The Church
- 2 Tollbüch
- 3 The Castell
- 4 Bridge Wynd
- 5 Bridge Port
- 6 The Barony
- 7 The Mill Port

- 8 The Kirkgate Port
- 9 Lady Port & Wynd
- 10 Ashler gale Street
- 11 Crofs Street
- 12 Bonnygate Street
- 13 East Port
- 14 West Port

- 15 Short Wynde
- 16 Bober Wynde
- 17 Provosts Wynde
- 18 Lady Bridge
- 19 Mute Hill
- 20 Well Tower
- 21 Lady Burne

THE PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR.

Συν Θεω.

THE MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE PRESBYTERIE OF CUPAR
SINCE THE LAST PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLYE HOLDEN AT CUPAR OCTOBER
6, 1646.

October 22, 1646.—The brether wer ordained to keip the fast, indicted by the Provinciaill Assemblye to be kept throughout the whole province, the next Thursday, the 29 of October instant, the causes being the same that wer of the laitte former fast, the plague of pestilence, the raging enemies in Argyle preassing to establishe papistrie there.

Mr. David Dalgleshe declared, that Mr. Walter Greig and he gave in the names of those suspect of complayeance with the enemies, to the Synodal Assemblye, and, being authorized by them, gave them in to the Committie of the Shyre.

Mr. George Thomfone, minister at Kilmanie, representing to the Presbyterie that ther was no mantainance in ther paroches for a schoole, desired the brethers advise and assistance for helping of it: The brether tooke it to consideratione whil the next day.

November 5.—Concerning the persons in the paroches of Cupar suspect of complayeance with the enemies, viz. Sir James Sibbald of Rankilour, James Clephan, and James Baxter, who wer summond to compeer this day; and compeiring, the Moderator asked Mr. David Dalgleshe, What

was the ground quherupon the said Mr. David defyrd them to be fummond? who ansering, declared, that he was informed be the Seffione of Cupar, that the Gordons wer in Sir James Sibbald of Rankilour his howse; that he was lykewayes informed by the said Seffion, that James Clephan convoyed thame to Forfar, and, as he was informed, it was to feike a discharge of the monye given be the Towne of Cuper to the saids Rebels; that he was lykwayes informed, that James Baxter was in companie with James Grhame, being in the Laird of Park his service in Buchanan.

Sir James Sibbald of Rankilour being examined, confessed, they came to his howse, and wer in his howse against his will; and said, he was not able to hold them owt, nor to eschew them.

James Clephan, being asked, declared, he was sent by David Robertfone, dean of guild in Cuper, David Robertfone bailzie, and David Robertfone, fone to David Robertfone dean of guild, to follow them to get a discharge for the monyes given to the Gordones be the Towne of Cuper. James Clephan was fummond *apud acta* to compeir the nixt Thurfeday.

Mr. Alexander Balfoure, haveing formarlie acquainted the Presbyterie with that prote&tioune whiche the Laidie of Aytoune had received, made report, that the Laidie had most humblie, in the face of the congregatioune, testified hir repentance, conforme to the ordinance of the Generall Assemplye.

November 26.—Jonet and Marie Mitchells, in the parochie of Kilmanie, felandered of witchecraft by occasione of something spoken be Griffell Thomfone, who was brunt for witchecraft, did supplicat the Presbyterie to have the said felander tryed. Quherupon the Presbyterie defyrd that Griffall Thomfone hir delatione concerning the said Jonet and Marie Mitchells should be fought from the clerk of the proces, and presented the nixt day.

December 17.—Rankilor Sibbald elder, compeiring, and being asked anent the new refetting of Newtongordone, declared, that the reason was becaus he had Middletonis passe: The said Rankilor elder was fummond *apud acta* against the nixt day.

December 31.—The quhilk day, the bretheren haveing considered the whole proces concerning Rankilor Sibbald elder, although they doe not

find him to come under anye of the classes of complencie with the rebels exprest in the Act of the Generall Assemblie; yet becaus, throughe the rebels being a night in his howse at that time when they went throughe the shyre of Fyffe, they find that ther is a pregnant sclander concerning him taking impressiōe in the heartes of manye, as iff he had reallie complied with them in ther wicked cowrses; therfor, they think it meit, and ordaine, for removeing of the said sclander, that the said Rankilor Sibbald elder, the nixt Sabbathe day, publietlie in the Congregatione, after sermone befor the blissing, stand up in his owin seat, and declare that he hathe bein alwayes free of complying with them in ther cowrses of rebellion; and that ther being in his howse, was without anye invitatione or allowance upon his part, and altogether against his will and defyr, he not being able in that exigent either to eschew them or hinder them: And appoints Mr. David Dalgleishe to report his carriage in that matter to the Presbyterie the nixt Thurfday.

Ther was received this day, ane letter sent from the Commiffione of the Generall Assemblie, shewing that they had emitted ane Warning, quherof nynteen copies wer received and given to the severall bretheren of our Presbyterie to reade and explaine, according to the Act printed therwithe, and that in ther severall kirks on Sunday nixt; pryce being 12 s.; defyring lykewayes, to send to James Murray the pryces of the acts of the last Assemblie, Cawses of the Fast, and his tuentie shillings for this present yeir; as also, the pryces of the Declaratione and Proclamatione against Seafort, and Cawses of the Fast, pryce 4 s.: As also, declaring that James Ogylvie, sone to sometymes Earle of Airlie, was relaxed in the East Kirk of Edinburghe from the sentence of excommunicatione; defyring the same to be intimat, in the severall parochie kirks within this Presbyterie owt of pulpite be the minister, the nixt Sabbathe.

Received also ane other letter from the said Commiffione, recommending to the charitie of the bretheren Mr. James Kirk, minister of Dunblane, who had his howses, cornes, bookes, and whole goods brunt and destroyed, himselfe, his wyffe, and seven young children spoiled of all means of lyveliehood; quhilk they tooke to consideration whil the nixt day.

Anent the women, Jonet and Marie Mitchels in Kilmenie, sclandered of

witchecraft, by reason of something that Griffall Thomfone had spoken anent them, Mr. George Thomfone reports, that he had spoken of that matter in the Commiffione of the Kirk, and that ther opinion was, that it was verie hard to keip young weomen under fclander, and to marre ther fortune in the world, and debar them from the benefite of the Kirk, quher ther is nothing but the delatione of one witche, without anye fclander befor, or anye other pregnant prefumptions before or fince. Quherfor the Presbyterie did appoint the faid Mr. George to call befor him publi&lie in the congregatione the faid Jonet and Marie Mitchels, and to intimat to the congregatione how that, after all tryelle used, nothing was found againft them faffe onlye that quhilk that wretche fpak, and how cruell a thing it was, upon fo weake a ground, to keip them under fo foul a fclander; and that he should charge them publi&lie, that iff they knew anye other thing againft the faidis perfons whiche might be anye prefumptions of ther being guiltie of that wickednes, they wold declare it befor the nixt Lords day; and that iff none should laye anye other thing to ther charge befor that day, that then they should the nixt Lords day be declared free of that fclander, and not anye more be debarred from the benefite of the Kirk.

Januarij 7, 1647.—Mr. David Dalgleifhe declared that the Seffion of Cupar was fullie fatiffied with Sir James Sibbald of Rankilor his declaratione the laft Sabbathe; quherto the brether acquiesced.

David Barclay ftill contumacious and difobedient to the Seffion of Creiche, the brether fent for ane bailzie, who compeiring was defyred to put him in firmance, and hold him in firmance, untill, upon cautione, he should promise to fatiffie the Kirk Seffion of Creiche.

Januarij 14.—The brether received ane letter from the Commiffione of the Kirk, together with twentie copies of ane A& and Letter for a fupplie to be collected in the feveral paroches for the diftreffed people of Argyle.

Januarij 21.—David Barclay, in the paroch of Creiche, compeiring, was enjoyned to make his repentance befor the pulpite in the kirk of Creiche on Sabbathe, for the breiche of the Sabbathe in threfling corne, and ane other for his obftinacie and rebellious; as also ordained to pay a dolor of penaltie.

February 4.—Sir David Sibbald compeiring, and being asked anent his compliencie with the enemie, declared, that they wer in his hows against his will ; and being asked iff he prayed for them, denyed that he did pray for them. The brether being informed that the Laird of Forther, Carlloggie elder, Bagriggie, and James Clephan, wer in his howse at that tyme, appointed them to be fummond against the nixt Thursday, to compeir and declare to the Presbyterie how the said Sir David Sibbald behaved himselfe in the companie of the saidis Rebels.

February 18.—This day compeired Sir David Sibbald, as also the Laird of Forther and Bagriggie, as witneses, to declare what they knew in the matter anent the said Sir David his compliencie with the enemie ; and the said Sir David being asked, whither he did except anye thing against the saidis gentlemen as witneses, ansered, he did except nothing against them ; quherupon the saidis two witneses being requyred, upon ther oathe, to declare what they knew in the said matter, declared as followes :

The Laird of Forther being questioned, declared, he did not hear the said Sir David pray for the enemie ; and being asked iff ther wer anye healthes drunken, declared, that he saw none druken but the Kings healthe ; with all declaring, that the said Sir David did entertainie the saids rebels verie kyndlie, and that they were welcome to him, and that in a jeasting way he said, “ This is the day quheron ye should have bein at the Comittie.”

Bagriggie declared, he hard him not pray for the enemies ; that ther was no healthe druken but the Kings healthe ; and that Sir David was verie violent against the Laird of Forther, declaring to the rebels, that the Laird of Forther was the greatest enemie in the Committie that he hade, defying the saids rebels to take a revenge of him for it.

The A& anent pennie brythels was delayed till the Provinciall Assemblye while the matter should be more ryplie advifed there.

This day David Barclay, portioner of Lithrie, compeired, shewing that he had brought owt of Lawthean Bessie Couper and hir daughter, bothe suspect of witchecraft, craveing the advife of the brether what he should doe with them. The brether did advife the said David to keip them untill Soneday nixt, and present them to the Session of Creiche.

February 25, 1647.—Mr. Johne Ramfay and Mr. Johne Litlejohnne, were appointed to speake to my Lord Anandell at his first comeing home owt of Edinburghe, and aske his Lordship whither he had satified the Kirk for his compliencie with the enemie or not, and to report to the Presbyterie.

Mr. Walter Greig declared, that he spake to Kingask anent the removing of the monuments of superstitione in the kirk of Darfie, who said to him that he was attending Sir George Morison his homecoming from Edinburghe.

Mr. Johne Makgil elder, Mr. Walter Greig, and Mr. Andrew Bennett, ar appointed to speake to Bessie Couper, and trye iff they could have anye confessione of her concerning witchecraft.

Marche 4.—The brether haveing diverse tymes conveyned Sir David Sibbald befor them, and haveing made diligent searche of the degree of his delinquencie of the complying with the commone Enemies, have found, partlie by witneses and more fullie by his owin confessione, that he did receive some of them to his howse and entertained them too kyndlie; quhilk the said Sir David this day acknowledged befor us, wiffing he had rather quat his countrie nor bein so familiar withe them, and humblye submittinng himselfe to our censure. All quhilk being taken to our serious consideratione, we decerned, lyk as be these presents we doe decerne, according to the A& of the laite Generall Assemblie, he being in the second classe of these delinquents, that he shal make confessione of the said oversight, and shew his serious repentance therfor publi&lie befor the pulpite of the kirk of Moniemell, the nixt Sabbath immediatlye following; upon the quhilk repentance he shalbe received be the minister.

Mr. Johne Makgill elder, and Mr. Walter Greig, that were appointed to speake to Bessie Couper, suspect of witchecraft, declared, they spake to hir, but she confessed nothing to them. The brether appointed Mr. Alexander Balfour, Mr. Johne Makgill younger, and Rankilor Makgill younger, to speake to the Magistrats of Cupar for ane ward howse quherin she might be kept till farder tryelle.

The ingathering of the collectione for the supplie of the people of Argyle is delayed, by reasone the people ar burdained with quartering of fogers now goeing to the Noarthe, and also of the Monthlie mantinance.

Marche 11.—Concerning Sir David Sibbald his satisfactiōne according to the ordinance the day preceeding, it is found, that he had no wife satisfiēd the ordinance of the Presbyterie, becaus neither his confessiōne was full as it had bein in the Presbyterie the day befor, neither had he humbled himselfe upon his knees; his expressiōne was suche as the com-mone people could not understand; he had his pistols about his fyde, and went foorth the befor the blissing immediatlie after the minister had ceassed to speake to him; and becaus, compeiring, he is found not sensible of his miscarriages, he is summoned *apud acta* to compeir the next day.

The matter concerning Bessie Cupar, slandered for witchcraft in the parochie of Creiche, is delayed untill Mr. Andrew Bennett his returne from Edinburghe.

Quheras, it is reported by Mr. Lawrence Olyphant, minister at Newburghe, that most pairt of the elders and inhabitants of the parochie of Neuburghe, had conversed withe Andrew Andersone, who was excommunicate three yeir since in the said parochie; the Presbyterie being deeplie affected withe the said miscarriage, and considering how much of that kynd abounds in the land, whilas so manye ar excommunicate, doe refer the matter to the consideratione of the Provinciaall Assemblie, that a solide course may be taken, bothe for punishing this so haynous ane offence, and for preventing the lyke in tyme comeing; and discharges Mr. Lawrence to give the Communion whil the Provinciaall be past.

The Presbyterie received a letter from the Commissiōne of the Kirk, appointing a fast to be kept the first Sabbath of Appryle, for the successe of the expeditione to the Noarthe, and for the other causes of humiliatione that ar up and downe the land; and for defying the Members of the Commissiōne of the Kirk to repair to Abirdaine the second Wedensday of Maij; whiche was red and recommendet to the brether.

March 18.—The quhilk day, the brether, taking to ther consideratione the report made be Mr. David Orme of the deficiencie of Sir David Sibbald's declaratione of repentance in findrie points at the Kirk of Moniemel, doe heirby ordaine him to mak declaratione also of his repentance in the Kirk of Cult this next Sabbath, in a humble manner upon his knees befor the pulpite, for all his former miscarriages.

The quhilk day, David Veitche compeiring, and confessing his being withe the enimie at Kilsythe and Philiphaughe, the brether, conforme to the A& of the Generall Assemblies, ordained him in a humble manner upon his knees to confesse his fault, and declare his repentance in a humble manner upon his knees befor the Presbyterie; quhilk he performed: And also ordained him to compeir befor the pulpite of the kirk of Darfie this nixt Sabbathe to doe the lyk, according to the A& of the Generall Assemblye.

Mr. Andrew Bennett and Mr. Walter Greig wer appointed to speak Mr. Thomas Melvin at the Synod, for planting of the schoole of Moniemell.

April 1.—Bessie Cupar in the parochie of Lithrie, suspect of witchcraft, is referd to be advised withe the Provinciaill Assemblye; as also the caice of findrie others lying under the sclander of witchcraft, and not yet cleared.

It is referred to the Assemblye to advise concerning the ecclesiastick censure to be inflicted in this caice, wher tuo young men have, for the space of three quarters of a yeir, layin in harlotrie withe one woman, bothe of them having hir at once *successivè* upon all occasions of purpose, as the woman thought hirselve that she might not conceive withe childe.

This day, the bretheren taking to ther confideratione the estate and conditione of the great benefices, owt of the quhilk they have there affignations, and fra quhilk should arise the maintainance of the fabrick of the Kirks and kirk dykes, and also furniture for the Communion Elements to be ministred four tymes in the yeir; and that [it] was expedient thir things should be assured to the Kirks in tyme, They have referred this whole matter to the confideratione of the Synodal Assemblye nixt enfweing; as also, to have there advise and concurrence anent the setling of gleibs and manfes, and the setling of viccarage dweties.

Aprile 15.—*James Wilkie his censure.*—James Wilkie in the parish of Culleffie, called and compeiring, the brether takeing to ther confideratione the greatnes of his fault, (he being ane elder,) in breakeing of the Sabboth day, and labouring to cover the said fine by the testimonie of other men; as also, till affront both the Sessions of Monymaill and Culleffie, ordained [him] first to appear befor the Sessione of Culleffie the next Sabboth day,

and humblie vpon his knees to acknowledge his fault in the abuse and contempt of that Judicatorie; and immediatlie thereafter to be depofed from his elderfhip be the Seffione, and the depofitione to be intimate the Sabbath following; the quhilk day, he fhall humblie acknowledge vpon his knees his great fine in contemneing the Kirk Judicatories; and the Sabbath after that, he fall publi&lie fatffie for breach of the Sabbath, according to common ordour.

Letter to my Lord Annandaill.—The Prefbyterie refolved to writte to my Lord Annandaile, anent Maige Reikie incestuous; as alfo anent Bessie Cuper fufpected of witchcraft.

Craufurd concurring in the matter of Cuper.—The Erle of Craufurd being prefent, was defired to be carefull for planteing of a fecond minifter in Cuper, who promifed to be carefull; and the brether appoynt this day fourtene dayes for meitteing of the Towne and Heritours of the parifh of Cuper for that effect, the faid Earle promifeing to be prefent the faid day, and to concurre in the matter foirfaid.

Aprile 22.—Sir John Spottifwoods declaratione.—Sir John Spottifwood compeired, and being asked, if he was in companie with the Enemie? anfered, he came to Cuper to them to feik back his horfes which they had taken from him. And being enquired, if he did eate and drinke with them? anfered, he did upon this occafione; and being asked, whither he went to Tarvate with them? anfered, he did it, but upon Forther his request, that he fhould fpeak to Rankilour, that he might fpeake to Newtounne Gordoune for him. And being asked, if he went to the Newburgh with them? replied, he did, to gett his horfes which wer carried along to Abernethie, and not rendred without money. He was alfo enquired, if [he] knew of any of his fones goeing to the Enemie? anfered, that his fecond fone went to Generall Ruthwen when he was abfent in England; that he had bought five or fex yeiris fince, ane Ensignes place for his thrid fone, and fent him to Germanie, and had never feen him fince that time, but now of late; and laftlie, that his eldeft fone went into Montrofe, bothe againft his knowledge and his will. And being questioned, if he did refett his fone fince Philiphaugh? anfered, not befor the generall licence and publi& pardone of the Eftates. And being further enquired, if David

Weitch was in his house in the tyme of the Parliament of St. Andrews? answered, that he came to it with my Lord Lundoris: And lastlie being asked, if my Lord Gordoune or any of his brether wer in his house at Newmilne? he answered, never. The brether delayed this matter till this day fiveten dayes. Sir John was summoned *apud acta* to be present the said day. Mr. John Ramsay desired to enquire of the Laird of Forthar and his man, what they knew in the matter, and the whole brether to enquire in ther severall sessions if they did know any point of malignancie in the said Sir John.

AT NEWBURGH, 13 MAY 1647.

Elders of Newburgh ther confessione and censure.—The quihilk day, the Presbyterie held at Newburgh for executione of the ordinance made the last day at Cupar. And after sermon made be Mr. John Durie, and incalling on the name of God, Mr. James Wedderburne, Moderator for the tyme, asked Mr. Laurence Olyphant, whither or not he had made intimatione of the appoyntment of the Presbyterie made the last day? answered, he had done the same, and gave in the names of the elders who eate and drank with Andrew Anderfone excommunicate, viz. David Wentoune, John Layng, Thomas Anderfone, Patrick Birrell, John Low, Mr. David Fairfull, Patrick Ramsay, and Andrew Anderfone his father, who prayed with his sone excommunicate. The foirsaid persons being particularlie interrogate be the Moderator, declared, they drank with him. As also, the said Mr. Laurence gave in the names of thes who confessed they did take him by the hand, but did not drinke with him, viz. John Philp, Patrick Beatt, John Birrell. The Moderator, shewing to the saids Elders the greatnes of ther fine with the foirsaid excommunicate person, appoynted Mr. Laurence Olyphant to intimate out of pulpit the next Sabbath, a day of humiliatione to be kept on Sunday come aucht dayes thereafter be the whole parish of Newburgh, that all and everie one of them may be humbled for so great a fine. And in particular, the foirsaid elders ar appoynted to sitt befor the said pulpit the said day, and everie one of them particulairlie to acknowledge ther fine in

converfeing with the forfaid excommunicate perfoune ; and Andrew Anderfone for praying with him. And therafter the faid Mr. Laurence is appoynted to receave them. All which was done according to the A&t of Synod made theranent.

Maij 27.—David Blyth his repentance.—David Blyth in the parifh of Ebdie, (for fhedding of blood on the Sabboth day,) is appoynted to ftand at the kirke doore of Ebdie, Sonday next, barefooted and bareheadit, with the gun in his hand wherwith the blood wes fhedde, vntill the laft bell, and thairafter to fitt befor the pulpitt the tyme of fermon, and, after fermon, to acknowledge and confeffe vpon his knees his fine, and then be receaved.

June 3.—Intimatione of the act of the Committie.—This day, the brether reported ther diligence in intimateing the A&t of the Committie anent the receaveing of perfones comeing from places fufpected of the plague, and wer approven thairin.

Act for the two young men ther repentance.—Mr. David Orme, produceing the proceffe anent Mr. Harie Cuper and Mungo Duddingftone, fornicatores, was approven : And they themfelfes compeireing both in fackcloth, wer ordained to fatiffie according to the A&t of the Synod.¹

Perfones excommunicate.—Receaved from Mr. Walter Greig the names of the perfones excommunicate by the authoritie of the Commiffione of the Generrall Affemblye, viz. Mr. Alexander Innes, ane depofed minifter ; Mr. William Maitland, ane preacher ; Ludovicke Gordone, fone to the late Marqueffe of Huntlie ; Arthur Forbes, ane follower of the faid Ludovick ; Patrik Gordoune with the fteill hand ; Alexander Gordoune ; Patrik Leith of Harthill ; Johne Gordoune of Feichell ; William Gordoune of Newtoun younger.

June 10.—Faft to be keiped.—The brether refolved to keipe the faft appoynted be the Synod, and to adde to the caufes contained in the A&t, the fpreading of the plague within the fhyre.

Letter to Faulkland.—Ther was ane letter drawn vpe to be fent to Faulk-

¹ They appear to be the two young men referred to in the question put by the Presbytery to the Synod, 1st April 1647, *q v.*

land and Auchtermuchtie to desire them to forbear ther enfueing fares be reafone of the pestilence.

References read.—The references from the Synod to the Presbyterie wer read in audience of the brether.

Familie exercise recommendit.—1. The brether being enquired anent familie exercise, declared they used diligence: It was recommendit to the brether be the Moderator to use farther diligence.

Anent Schooles.—2. Anent Schooles, it was recommendit to the brether to try whether ther schooles wer provydit according to the A&t of Parliament, and to report the next day.

Anent Da. Glaine.—3. Anent David Glaine murtherer, Mr. David Dalgleish reported he had written to Mr. James Bruce, promifeing to proceed after that Mr. James had prayed the thrid tyme for him.

Anent a colleague in Cuper.—4. Anent the provydeing for a colleague to Mr. David Dalgleish in the Kirk of Cuper, the brether resolves to writte to the Commiffione that fitts for plantatione of Kirks, and to concurre with the heritors and parishioners of Cuper.

A&t anent Sabbath.—5. The A&t anent the breach of the Sabbath is to be extra&t.

Anent pennie briddels.—6. The A&t of Justice of Peace anent pennie bryddells to be fought for be Mr. James Martine from Alexander Martiall.

Vifitatione of Kirks delayed.—Be reafone of the plague spotteing abroad, the brether delayed the Vifitatione of Kirks for a tyme.

Advice anent the Plague.—The Laird of Fernie, commiffioner from the Committie of the Shyre, compeired, desireing the bretheris concurrence for preventeing the present daunger of infectione: Quherinto the brether condiscended, and ordained the A&t followeing:—

This day, after the incalling of the name of God, the brether being myndit be Sir James Arnott of Fernie knyght, of the desire of the Committie of the Shyre for our concurrence with them to the preventeing of the present daunger of infectione, and the fpreading thairof in the shyre, have thought it our duetie to give all our heartie concurrence to the uttermost of our abilitie in fuch a good and neecessar busines, not only in re-

gard of the care that wee should have of the outward societie and peace of the shyre, quherin everie one of us have our interest, but also, and speciallie in regard of the great care incompetent to us anent our Lords glorie, and the keipeing of our congregations togidder vndissolved, quhilk wee would judge to be the greatest plague of all, if it should please the Lord so to dispose: Therfor wee have thought fitt, if it shall seeme guid to your Honours, that, first, ye would be pleased to seik the concurrence of our brether in other Presbyteries: Secondlie, wee have thocht guid, after mor serious deliberatione, that, if it fall seeme fitting to the Honourable Committie of the shyre, tuo brether of our number, togidder with ane elder sent from us, fall concur with yow in this matter, with ther best advice at your severall meittings as they shalbe allowed and directed by us and required by yow: Thridlie, wee thinke it most expedient that exact care be taken in all townes and landwart parishes of civill passes and spirituall testimonials, with severe punishment against the counterfitters, and such ecclesiastik censures as the severall Sessions fall thinke expedient: Fourtlie, wee, haveing considered the great daunger proceeding from the disobedience of publick ordoures of them who, at this tyme and in this case, hes the charge of the shyre, have thocht meit that whatsomever publick ordoures made by the publick, and seene and allowed be us, anent the preventeing of the further spreadeing of the Plague, is either negligentlie or wilfullie transgrest and broken, we fall censure the saidis persones spirituallie, and by thir presents determines in maner after followeing, viz. He that is proven negligent in obeyeing the publick ordoures of the shyre duellie made and constitute for the common benefite, and for preventeing the fearefull dissolutione of congregations, out of any wanton or insolent humor, shalbe commandit be our severall Sessions to make his repentance befor the pulpit on ane Sabbath day as ane contemner of guid ordour, as unnaturall to his owne lyffe, the lyffe of his familie and neighbouris, as vnchristian in neglecting the weilfare and prosperitie of the holy meitteing. Iff any man throch willfull contempt fall despise the ordour civill, and now this ordour spirituall, be he minister, elder, or one of the people, rich or poor, great or small, fall be under the proces of the Kirk vntill the greatest, at the discretion of the Presbyteries: And all

this without the prejudice of the judgement and concurrence of our brethren in the rest of the Presbyteries.

June 24.—Mercates discharged.—Mr. James Martine and Mr. William Levingstone declaired that, according to the desire of the Presbyterie, the townes of Faulkland and Auchtermuchtie had discharged ther mercates becaus of the Plague.

Andro Anderfone satisfied.—Mr. Laurence Olyphant declaired that Andro Anderfone elder, had satisfied the Kirk according to the ordinance of the Presbyterie, for prayeing with his sone excommunicate.

July 15.—Supplicatione Johne Spindie.—This day, Johne Spindie, merchant of Dalkeith, declaired into the Presbyterie that he had married Jean Buchan, but vnder the name of Jeane Paterfone, and desired thee might be cleared of the aspersione of witchcraft which was put upon her, that he might have her for his wyffe: The Presbyterie required him to report a testificate of his marriage from Mr. Hue Campbell, minister at Dalkeith, and thairafter they wer to give ther anser.

David Glaine excommunicate.—Mr. David Dagleish reported, he had pronounced the sentence of excommunicatione againest David Glaine, murtherer; intimatione to be made thairoff in all the kirks of the Presbyterie, and letters to be directed to the other Presbyteries, that the same may be intimate throughout the province.

Supplie for David Allerdice.—The brether desired to deale with ther severall Sessiones anent supplie for rebuilding David Allerdice his house in Faulkland, brunt at command of the Committie of the fhyre for avoyding the plague.

John Hamilton to be summoned.—Johne Hammiltoun, in the parish of Faulkland, to be summoned against the next day for his bloodie oathes againes God, and his misbehaviour towards his minister.

August 26.—Helen Deas to be summoned.—Helen Deas appoynted to be summoned for abuseing of the place of repentance, and her not giving satisfactiōne to the congregatiōne.

September 9.—A reference anent Schooles.—A reference to the Synod anent provisiōne of Schooles in a tuofold respect; first, of thes parishes that ar large and great may take themselves to the least alterna-

tive contained in the act of Parliament made anent Schooles, wiz. a hundredth merkis, or may be stented higher, according to the largenes and proportion with other parishes? Secondlie, whither Schooles formerlie provydit, but not reacheing to this least alternative of ane hundredth merkis, may the parishioners be now urged be vertue of this late act of Parliament, made in favours of Schooles, to provyde the schole according to the same or not?

September 16.—*John Hamilton compeireth.*—John Hamiltoune, in the parish of Faulkland, called and compeirand, confessed his fault; was appoynted to acknowledge the same vpon his knees befor the minister and baylzies, first in the place wher he committed it, secondlie befor the session, and thridlie befor the pulpit.

October 21.—*Pennie bryddells.*—The Presbyterie, considering the Act of the late Synod holden at Dumfermling, the 6 of Aprile 1647, for repreffing the abuses in pennie bryddells, and finding the said act to be relative to ane act of Justice of Peace made to that effect the 24 of February 1636, does thairfor, ordaine the forsaide act of Synod to be read from all the pulpitts, that none pretend ignorance thairfor, and that the number at such bryddles be straitlie vrged to be conforme to the number contained in the act of Justice of Peace, extending to 20, and at most not exceeding 24; and that the number at contracts and banquetts of this kynd be the just halfe heiroff; and that, vnder the paines contained in the said act of Justice of Peace: And for getteing of better obedience heirinto, ministers ar ordained not to contract any parties vntill they obleidge themselves to fullfill the premisses, and find cautione for that effect; and everie Session is appoynted to have the copie of the above specifiet act of Justice of Peace.

This day, compeired Mr. Andro Louthian fornicator, was judicillie discharged from preaching and from any other publick exercise which befor he might have done as ane expectant; and that for the fornicatione latelie committed by him.

This day, Jonet Jethfeman, being wounditt in foule, greived in spirit, and fore pressed vnder the burden of ane adulterie committed by her nyne yeirs agoe in Cupar, with one Ja. Southerland, compeired of her owne accord, confessed the same, and offred satisfiactioun for it, as the onlie meane

to heale her woundes and calme her spirit : Shoe is referred vntill the next dyett; and leaft shoe should be fwallowed upe of forrow, Mrs. Walter Greig and William Row ar appoynted to conferre with her, and minifter spirituall comfort to her.

[Mr. John Hall, minifter at Kilspindie.]

December 2.—This day, the Presbyterie appoynted everie bröther to deall with ther elders, after a speciall maner, for setteing vpe the woorshippe of God in ther families, and whatfomever elder after dealleing did want the same vsuallie, to be depofed.

December 16.—Catherine Jamesone, in the parish of Cults, appoynted to be fummoned for hir railing from the place of publick repentance.

December 30.—This day, Mr. Andro Louthian compeired befor the Presbyterie, acknowlegded with teares his great fine; was appoynted to be receaved the next Lords day in the kirk of Faukland, from the ordinarie place of repentance, be the minifter ther.

January 13, 1648.—The report from the feveral Seffiones anent the number of copies of the Dire&iones for Familie woorshippe they would take for the use of ther parishes, was as followes: Cuper reported they would take ane 100, Darfie 20, Cults 16, Faukland 50, Auchtermuchtie 20, Dunbug 10, Creich 20, Flisk 10, Logie 16, Moonfie 8, Monymaill 20, Culleffie 30.

Catharine Jamesone appoynted to fitt one day in sackcloth for her former misbehaviour.

This day, the Presbyterie ordained everie brother who had not a competent stipend to use all legall meanes for helpeing thairroff.

January 27.—This day, the Presbyterie ordained that all young students who waittes on noblemen or gentlemen within thir bounds, aither to teach ther children or catechise and pray in ther families, to frequent the Presbyterie, that the brether may cognosce what they ar reading, and what proficiencie they make in ther studies, and to know also ther behaviour in the said families, and of ther affectione to the Covenant and present religione.

March 2.—The overture anent receaveing of complaints, that is, if bills or complaints be presented to the Presbyterie, and be not in fuch

grave, sober, and plaine termes, without affectatione, and without imitatione of that libertie in libelling any thing vsed befor civill judicatories; and if they be not such as doeth altogether befeeme ecclesiastick judicatories, the Presbyterie ordaines all such in all tyme comeing to be rejected and nowayes receaved.

[Mr. Henrie Smith, minister at Beath.]

March 9.—This day, Mr. Laurence Olyphant gave in his compts of the receipts of that money collected for the distressed people of Argyll, within the bounds of the Presbyterie, with ane discharge from Sir James Stewart of the same; which being compared with the former compt was found to agree with the same, and thairfor appointed to be insert in the Presbyteries books; the tenour wheroff followes, videlicet:—

I, James Stewart, merchant, of Edinburgh, grauntis me to have ressavit from Mr. Laurence Olyphant, minister of Newburgh, in the Presbyterie of Cupar, the sowme of sex hundreth fourscoir and fourtene libs. as the collectione above specifit for the distressed people of Argyll, quheroff I dischairge the said Mr. Laurence in name of the said Presbyterie, by vertue of ane warrant of the Generall Assembly ordaineing me to receive the severall contributions: Witness my hand at Edinburgh the 19 of Feb. 1648.

J. STEWART.

Mr. Alexander Balfour, this day, asked resolutione of the brether in thes particulars, viz. Whether deacons should have ane decisive voyce in Sessions equall with elders or not? 2^dlie, Whether heritores, formerlie elders, but not residentaries in the parish, if vpon occasione they come to the Sessione, may have equall voyce with residentarie elders? 3^dlie, Whether a child brocht forth in the beginning of the seventh [moneth] may live, and whether the parents of that child should be punished as fornicatores, it being immediately after ther marriage? The brether referes the answer to thes vntill the next day.

March 16.—The brether, confidering the severall provisiones of Ministers within ther bounds, and finding many not sufficientlie provided, did require them all, and most particulairlie Mr. Walter Greig, to vse all lawfull and ordinarie diligence to gett ther provisiones helped; and Mr. Walter Greig was peremptorilie appoynted to vse diligence for that effect, becaus formerlie he could not gett it done becaus of the malice and

might of Bishopes against him, which the brether conceives should be ane motive to the Lords of plantatione now to fie him both the better provyded, and the mor speedilie dispatched.

March 23.—The brether takeing to ther confideratione the supplicatione presented to them this day be Effie Wichtoune, together with her present estate and conditione, and the conditione of the child latelie brocht forth by her in fornicatione with Mungo Duddingstone and Mr. Henrie Cuper, how that they ar both lyke to perish by famine, becaus none of the forsaide young men will owne the child, or doe the duetie of a parent therinto. And the Presbyterie also finding the said matter, to wit, which of thes tuo should be father into that child, had not yet beene concluditt nor determined by any competent court be a judge competent, that both thes tuo fall joyntlie contribute for the child's maintenance, and that vnder the paine of being lyable till further censures of the Kirk.

March 30.—This day, the Moderatour earnestlie recommenditt to the brether that they would be carefull to choise the ablest and best affected elders for waitteing on the Presbyterie the next half yeir.

April 13.—Thomas Owne and James Owne in Logie, being formerlie fummmond, wer called, and compeireing, confessed werie grosse and scandalous drunkennes and breach of Sabboth, wer appoynted to satiffie for the same in the thrie Kirks of Logie, Kilmanie, and Balmerinloch, and that from the publick place of repentance, and the said Thomas to be in sackcloth; and that it be intimate in all the thrie Kirks vnto them, that they falbe excommunicate if they continue in the forsaide faults and not amend; and that they pay ther penaltie to the Sessione of Logie, wherinto they ar presentlie remitted for receaving ther injun&iones.

April 27.—This day, the Moderatour enquired everie brother anent the repreffeing of drunkennes, fweareing, and the profanatione of the Lords day in ther severall parishes; all the brether promised to fie to the repreffeing of the forsaide vices.

[Mr. James Gillespie, minifter at Rind.]

This day, Mr. Andro Louthian presented ane humble supplicatione to the Presbyterie, desiring that his mouth might be opened againe. The brether, willing to know his carriagde since the declaratione of his re-

penance, desired Mr. William Levingstoune to aske the Sessione of Faulkland thairanent, and to report.

This day, the Moderatour enquired the brethren and ruleing elders, if the Declaratione had been read by everie minister, and if any did put wrong glosses thairupon, and if any of the people did remove from heareing it read; and in all the præmisses nothing was found contrair to the A& of the Commiſsione of the Kirk.

This day, Mr. Andro Bennett declaired, that he had received tuo thousand merkis, left by Mr. Alexander Henderſone¹ to the schoole of Creich; asked advice how it might be best secured: The brether desired him to advise with the Shereff-clerk thairanent untill the next day.

May 11.—The brether, this day, appoynted Mr. John Ramsay to desire the brether of Kirkcaldie, and Mr. David Raitt, with Creich, to desire the brether of St. Andros, to meett with them Twesday forsaide, for mutuall advice and concurrence in thir difficill tymes. Mr. John Ramsay was also to seik and crave the advice of the Commiſsione of the Kirk for ministers better directione in the said tymes, and to returne against the day of their first meitteing.

May 16.—The quhilk day, the brethren being mett with the brethren of other Presbyteries, according to the former appoyntement, they did receive ane letter from the Commiſsione of the Kirk, which was directed to all the four Presbyteries within the province; wherby the said Commiſsione did require everie minister to keipe himselfe frie from giving advice, assent, or countenance to this present Levie; as also, that no Presbyterie should send any of their number along therewith: Wherinto all the brether did particulairlie assent.

This day, the brethren of Cuper, with the advice of the brether from other Presbyteries, did condescend and ordaine that supplicationes from severall Presbyteries, Vniversities, and Burghes, should be provided, to be presented to the Committie of warre in the shire, which was to hold Thursday next; and that the severall Presbyteries should meett apart for that

¹ Mr. Henderson was Minister of Leuchars, and afterwards of Edinburgh. This money, left to his native parish, was "for maintenance of ane Scoole in the Towne of Lithrie, within the parish of Creich." (Aiton's Life of Henderson, p. 663.) He died in August 1646.

effect, the other thrie on Weddenseday, and this Presbyterie of Couper on Thurseday next in the ordinarie place of meitteing.

It was also appoynted, by this meitteing, that correspondence should be keiped with brether of other shires.

It was recommenditt, be this present meitteing, to the severall Presbyteries, that they should enquire of everie brother absent from this meitteing the reasones of his absence, and to censure them if the same be not found relevant; as also, to require ther assent and approbatione of the instructions of the Kirk, formerlie mentioned.

This day, 40 copies of the Short Informatione wer received be the Presbyterie, at 8 pennies the peice.

May 25.—Ministers ar required to deall with ther parishioners not to goe on in the Protestatione taken be Craufurd againes the supplicationes of the severall Presbyteries.

The Presbyterie doeth appoynt ther supplicatione to be infert in all ther Sessiones books, and that everie Sessione might give ther approbatione therinto.

June 1.—This day, the brether wer desired to try if they could bring in a copie of the Protestatione forsaide, that they may the mor warrantable proceed against the subscribers thairroff.

June 8.—Christiane Barclay and Catharine Smyth compeired this day; and Christane Barclay complained on the said Catharine Smyth that shoe had striken her within the kirk, quhill shoe was on her knees praying. The quhilk complaint the brether finding to be of truth, or at least finding the said Catharine to have miscarried verie farre in the kirk to the said Christiane, did ordaine Catharine forsaide to satisfie for the same befor the pulpitt of Creich the next Sabbath.

June 15.—This day, was presented to the brethren ane A& of the Commissione of the Kirk, which being read and approven be all, was ordained to be infert and registrat in the Presbyterie book; the tenour wheroff followes:—

Edinburgh the 5 of June 1648.—The Commissione of the Generall Assembly recommends seriouslie to Presbyteries to take speciall notice and tryall of every brotheris carriagde in the publick busines. That iff any be found who doe not declair themselves against the present

Ingagement, nor joyne with ther brethren in ther common Resolutiones againest it, nor give publick informatione to the people off the Vnlawfulnes of it, they may be referred to the next Generall Assemblie ; and if any of them have alreadie declaired themselves for it, that they be presentlie censured.

Sic subscribitur, MR. ANDRO KER.

Four copies of Mr. Zacharie Boyd his Psalmes wer delyvered this day to the Presbyterie, to be adwised with vntill the next General Assembly.

June 22.—This day, ane letter from the Commiffione of the Kirk, with the Causes of the Fast to be holden the laft Thurseday of June and first Sabbath of July, wer delyvered into the Presbyterie ; which Causes wer ap-
poynted to be regiftrate in the Presbyterie book ; the tenour whereof fol-
lowes :—

1. Wee ar to mourne for all the sines and provocations mentioned in the Causes of our former humiliations, quhilk doe continue and abound notwithstanding of all our obligationes to reforme our wayes, and many former solemne professiones of repentance, and of all the sharpe rods wherwith God corrects us, and heaveie judgements quherwith he now threatenus us.

2. Wee ar in speciall way to be humbled for the countenance that hath beine given, and compliancie that hath beene made, by too many with Malignants and persones disaffected to the worke of reformatione, which, in the just judgement of God, at last hes put such power and strenth in ther hands as is terrible to the people of God, and threatens his worke with ruine.

3. Wee ar to bewaile the small proficiencie vnder the preaching of many, the great contempt of the Gospell in others, and the great hardnes of heart and obstinacie in some, not only into the despising and reproacheing of the ministrie, but to the rejecteing of the most powerfull word of exhortatione in the mouthe of his servands.

4. Wee ar to be humbled for the greivous backslyding that is amongs us, which hath prevailed to the vndertakeing of ane vnlawfull Ingagement, notwithstanding of many petitiones from Burghs, Shyres, Presbyteries and Synods to the contrarie ; which vndertakeing, besyd many sad effects amongst ourselves, is lyke to rent in sunder the vnion betwixt the kingdomes, and not only obstruct the progresse of the worke of reformatione, but overturne the fundationes alreadie laid.

5. Wee ar to lament befor the Lord the oppression of his people in many places of this kingdome, vnto the spoyling of ther goods, offering violence to ther persones, and forceing of ther consciences, by causing ather to endure great affliction, or to sine against God by being accessorie to a sinful course.

6. Wee ar deeplie to be humbled that the Parliament now risen, they have beine so farre from satisfieing the just and necessar desires of the Kirke, or to the Petitiones presented into them, that they have enjoyed obedience to all thair ordours vpon the grounds of ther Declaratione in Aprill.

7. Wee ar to intreat the Lord in behalfe of our King, that he may be convinced and repent of the evillis of his former wayes, and may be inclined to the love and approbatione of the work of God : And in behalfe of thes who have power of the kingdome in ther hands, that they may desist from everie sinfull course, and satisfie the just and necessar desires of the Kirke, and consciences of the weill affected in the land, by secureing religione, and preserveing the vnion betuixt the tuo kingdomes and monarchicall governement in the persone of the King and of his posteritie.

8. Wee ar to begge of God that all the purposes, both of Sectaries and of the Popish prelatieall and malignant partie in all the thrie kingdomes, against the truth and worke of God, may be disappoynted, and ther power crushed. So also that the Lord would strenthen his people in all these dominions to adhear, without shrinkeing or fainteing, to the cause of God, and bear a faithfull testimonie thairto in the day of tentatione.

9. Lastlie, wee ar to pray for a blissing vpon the ensueing Generall Assemblie, that they may meitt in peace and love, and, being furnished with the spirit of vnitie and faithfulness, wisdom and zeall, they may so carie themselves in everie thing as that the hopes and designes of disaffected men may be disappoynted, truth may be preserved, holynes promoted amongst ourselves, and the worke of vniformitie advanced among our neighbours.

The League and Covenant was this day appoynted to be read be everie brother the first day of the fast, to the people, and ther diligence herein to be enquiryed the next dyett.

This day, the brether wer desired to require ther people to delay the mercatt of Auchtermuchtie, which was to fall the day following the fast, vntill the Twesday thairafter.

August 24.—This day was presented a letter from the Commiffione of the Kirke, wherby they require everie brother to advertise ther people that they be not taken with thes Observations emitted be the Estaittes vpon the Generall Assemblie ther Declaratione, vntill ther anfers should come forth into them. All the brether promised to doe as it was required.

Thomas Duncane in Sires, haveing complained to that Sessione on Henry Anderfone, that the said Henrie had said that Thomas forsaid had lyen with this Henrie his wyffe ; and the Sessione haveing desired the advice of Presbyterie therintill, the Presbyterie did ordaine the said Henrie to make declaratione of his repentance in sackcloth for his ordinarie drunkennes, and for flandering of his wyffe, haveing vpon tryall found the whole matter to be but flander.

August 31.—*Mr. John Ramsay and Mr. Wm. Livingstone sent to Bruntland.*—This day, Mr. John Ramsay and Mr. William Levingstoune wer directed from the Presbyterie to Bruntland, ther to deall with the meiteing of Burrowes, that some course might be taken be them for preventeing any further effusione of innocent blood.

September 14.—The Presbyterie did desire Mr. Walter Greig and Mr. David Dalglish to goe to the Committie, and in name of the brether, offer ther assistance and best concurrence for furthering and advanceing heir the work of God in this day of Jacobs trouble, and to exhorte them to stedfastnes.

September 21.—The quhilk day ther was no exercise, be reasone the Presbyterie was laitt in conveyeing, becaufe of thir present feares and troubles.

October 12.—Reference anent ane expectant, who haveing fallen in fornicatione, and haveing contracted the partie with whom he fell, refuses to performe the marriagde, notwithstanding the woman allegdes promise vpon oath; which she, being desired to pursue befor the jugde competent, has never yet pursued: How the Presbyterie shall proceed in the said matter?

October 18.—The Assembly ordenes the haill ministers and ruling elders of the Presbyterie of Couper to meitt at the kirk of Darsie, with Mrs. Patrik Scougall, James Bruce, and Andrew Honnyman, ministers, with the Laird of Creich and Kingeraig, ruling elders, for removeing of the monuments of idolatry and superstitioun in the said kirk of Darsie; and cognoscing the haill fabrick theirow. And the meiting to be wpon Mononday nixt the 23d of this instant. And the Minister to mak intimation theirow wpon Sonday nixt to the heritors and elders to be present for that effect.¹

¹ The meeting was accordingly held at Darsie, but the minute is totally silent as to these monuments of idolatry, it being exclusively devoted to the erection and division of seats in the church. But, fortunately, the *Synod Record* informs us, "That at the entrie of sindrie deskis, upon the platforme, and above the great west doore, there are crosiar staffes, in some part alon, and in other as a aditament and cognisance of the last pretended Bischops armes, not being any signe or cognisance ordinarie and commune in that name or familie, bot meirlic a signe of

November 2.—This day, Mr. George Thomfon declared, that Mr. David Kynneir in face of their Seffioun declared that he had subferyved the Proteftatioun againft the Supplicatioun, and that he rewed nothing of the doing of it; and if it were to doe, he would doe it over againe: to which he added (after fome interruption) out of the intention he had done it, which, (as he affirmed) was for the glory of God, the good of the Kirk, and the releife of his Prince. Wherupon the Presbyterie advyfed that the faid Mr. David fhould be proceffed be the Seffioun of Kilmany, and be fufpendit from being ane elder.

November 16.—The whilk day, Mr. George Thomfone declares that Mr. David Kynneir, being called befor the Seffioun of Kilmany, did declare that he was fory that he had fpoken any thing that did give offence; and that the purpofe of his fpeech was not to juftifie his aëione, but only his intention in refpect of the aëion; fubmitting to the judgement of the Kirk: wherfor, further proceffe againft him is delayed till the A& of the Commiffione of the Kirk be fein.

This day, Mr. David Orme produceth a roll of the names of thefe that had fied fhearers on the Sabbath day in Abernethie, September 17 and 24. It is ordeined that they be proceffed and censured in their feveral Seffiouns.

December 7.—This day, a letter is produced from the Commiffioun of the Kirk, together with the copies of the League and Covenant, and the folemne acknowledgement, and the A& of the Generall Affemblic for renewing of the Covenant; together with the a& for debarring from the Covenant and Communion; together with answers to the Committies Observations wpon the Affemblies Declaratione. In obedience to the whilk lettre, the Presbyterie refolued as followes. The Presbyterie, confidering the papers now at laft come to ther hands (although ftraitned

his degrie hierarchicall, according to the maner and forme used among the Romane hierarchists, and others following them:" and that there is "a glorious partition wall, with a degrie ascending thereto, dividing the bodie of the kirk fra there queir (as it is ordinarlie called in papistrie, and among them that follow papists); and above the great doore of their queir, so called, the armes of Scotland and England quartered, with divers crosses about and beside them, are set up." All these were ordered to be removed by the Synod as being superstitious.

with tyme) yet resolving to use all possible diligence to joyne with the rest of the Kirk in renewing of the solemne League and Covenant at the tyme apointed by the Commiffioun of the Kirk, have apointed that on Sunday nixt, after sermon in the foirnoon, the A&ts respektive of the Commiffioun of the Kirk, with the explanation be publickly red, together with the solemne acknowledgement of publick finnes; That the fast be intimat on the said day to be observed on Thurefday nixt, and the Saboth following, and the Covenant to be renewed that day according to the order prescryved; And that all the congregatioun be requyred to dilate to the Seffioun (to be keiped that day) any whom they know to come vnder the compasse of the acts of being debarred from the Covenant and communion; And that ewerie minister enquiry particularly in the Seffioun that day, and tak up a list of these that come vnder the compasse of the forsaide acts; and to cause summond the saidis persones to the Presbyterie, to be keiped wpon Monday nixt for that purpose, that their it may be cleired who ar to be debarred, and who not; and if any being summond doe not compeir, it is ordeined that their proceffes ly over till after the renewing of the Covenant, and that they be debarred in the meantyme: Also, it is appointed, that the information of the present condition of affaires, and declaration concerning present dueties from the Commiffioun of the Generall Assemblie to the Kirk and Kingdome be publickly red wpon the Thurefday of the fast, after the foirnoons sermon before the blessing: Also, if any being dilated cannot be gotten summond personally, being from home, it is apointed, that they be delayed till afterwards.

December 11.—The whilk day, the brethren meiting according to the apointment of the former day, after incalling of the name of God, did proceed against delinquents in the mater of the vnlawfull Engadgement, as followes:—

First, dilated by the Seffioun of Couper, as having charge in the engadgement, Andrew Paterfone lievetennent, David Johnston younger, quartermaster, Captain Robert Whyt.

Andrew Paterfone and David Johneson called, compeireing, and found to have had charge in that vnlawfull Engadgement, ar suspendit from the

Covenant and communion till the nixt Generall Assembly, according to the act of the Commiffioun of the Kirk, and their fufpenfion to be publickly intimat.

Capitan Whyt is found to be prifoner in England.

Dilated alfo, by the Seffion of Couper, for fufcryving the Proteftatioun entered in the Committy of the fhyre againft the fupplicationes of the Presbyteries refpectiue within the fhyre to the Parliament, Sir James Balfour, Alexander Inglis, Gilbert Paterfone, Mr. Patrick Glaffurd.

Sir James Balfour called, compeires, and confeffes he had fufcryved the foirfaid Proteftatioun, and declares that he was fory he had done fo ; and that he is willing to testify his difallowance of it, and to declare his repentance for it, any way the Presbyterie fhall think fitt, and earneftly defires that he may be received to the Covenant. Wherupon the Presbyterie, finding by the testimony of feuerall brethren that he had not bein malignant or difaffectionat to the Covenant and caufe of God, before the vnlawfull Engadgement ; but, on the contrair, had done and fuffered for it, ordeines, that he fufcryving the paper, (the tenor quherof followes :— “ Wheras ane Proteftatioun was entered before the Committy of warre of the fhyre of Fyffe, bearing a dire& oppofitioun therwnto, and ane urging of the advancement of the vnlawfull Engadgement, whilk Proteftatioun being prefented to us wnder fufcryvers, we did fufcryve it ; for whilk we ar heartily fory, and doe professe we doe think that Engadgement to be vnlawfull, and, if we had the paper, wold willingly rend our names theirfrom : whilk we declare as in the fight of God by our fufcriptiones ;”) and declaring his repentance publickly befor the congregation, coming out of his owne feat, and promyſing more circumſpect walking (in refpect of the Covenant in all tyme comming) ſhalbe admittit to the renewing of the Covenant. Wherupon he being called, and the faid ordinance intimat to him, he willingly fubmitts to it, and prefentlie fufcryves the foirfaid paper in face of the Presbyterie, and promyſes to obey the reſt of the order.

The magiftrats, counſellors, and gentlemen, in the paroehe of Couper who did put foorth men in the faid vnlawfull Engadgement, being called, compeirs, and declares that they did put out thoſe men againſt their will, being threatned with plowndering and quartering ; and that they werre

fory they had done so, and willing to declare the same any way the Presbyterie should think fitt: Wherupon the Presbyterie, (knowing the good affection of the said magistrats, cownfellors, and gentlemen to the Covenant and cause of God, and that they had never formerly bein found in any thing to be malignant,) ordeines, that they, declaring publikly before the congregation, standing up in their owne seatts, and inclyning their body, their disallowance of the said Engadgement, and that they werre fory they had any wayes concurred in it, shalbe received into the Covenant. Whilk being intimat to them, they willingly submitt to it, and promyses to obey the said ordinance.¹

The whilk day, Mr. Walter Greig craves advyce of the brethren anent a woman who had confessed hir selfe to be a witch. The Presbyterie, not having tyme to think upon that mater, delayes it till the nixt day.

December 31.—Mr. John Dury, minister at Logy, delated Johne Hall for refusing to swear and subscribe the Covenant, who, going forth in the tyme of the reiding of it, is therfor apointed to be summond against the nixt day.

It is apointed, that it be tryed in ewerie parochie, who werre absent at the tyme of the renewing of the Covenant, and for what reason; and that these who werre necessarily absent, and ar desirous to swear the same, be admittit to sweare before the Seffioun, and that others be specialy taken notice of.

Concerning Helen Young, in the parochie of Balmirrinoch, who had confessed hir self to be a witch, it is apointed, that Mrs. Johne Makgill elder and younger, Andrew Bennett, James Wedderburne, George Thomson, shall meitt with Mr. Walter Greig on Monday nixt, and speak with the said Helen Young, and report to the Presbyterie what they find the nixt day.

January 4, 1649.—The whilk day, diverse of the brethren enquiring what course should be taken with these who refused to sweare, or having sworne, did delay to put their hands to the Covenant. The Presbyterie thinks it meet to deall particularly with them, and desires Mr. Johne Mak-

¹ A great many other gentlemen and common people were, upon this occasion, delated by the different Sessions of similar offences, and received the like sentences.

gill younger, to repair to the Commiffioun of the Kirk the nixt week, and to try their what courfe is thought meitt to be taken with thefe who refuife to fweare, or put their hand to the Covenant.

The whilk day, the brethren, apointed to joyne with Mr. Walter Greig in dealing with Helen Young, reports that ftill fhe confefles hir felfe to be a witch; but that when fhe is pofed wpon particulars fhe feems to them either to difsemble, or els to be diftracted. But becaufe fhe fpak fomething reflexing wpon Helen Small and Elfpet Seith, the brethren think it meitt to goe on in the examination of Helen Small and Elfpet Seith; and in the mean tyme recommends to Mr. Walter Greig to deall with Helen Young, to try what can be had againft Helen Small and Elfpet Seith, in their Seffioun, againft the nixt day.

Mr. David Orme declares, that Helen Small was fummond, and that he had found in their Seffioun, that fhe had bein for a long tyme *malæ famæ* for witchcraft; and that fhe had bein proceffed in their Seffioun for the fame in the yeir of God I^mVI^c fowrtie-fowr; and that fome of their Seffioun had now deponed againft hir as followes:—

At Monimell, the laft of December, 1648.—Whilk day, after incalling the name of God, the Minister declared to the Sessioun, that Helen Young, in the parifhe of Balmirrinoch, had fpoken fomething reflexing wpon Helen Small about maters of witchcraft, and that he was apointed to defyre the Sessioun to try if they would give any information againft the said Helen Small.

January 7, 1649.—The whilk day, it is declared that, beside the scandal concerning William Balingall his death, for which the said Helen was proceft, she was of a long tyme *malæ famæ* for witchcraft. Item, it is alledged againft hir, that she sent with Alexander Allan in Lethem, a stoup full of barme to Bessie Swans spous Thomas Mackassie, to be given him to drink whil he was sicke, after which the said Thomas died. Item, that Alexander Arthur in Kumoquhy his wyfe, having flittin with the said Helen, fell sicke, and afterward, reproving the said Helen, his kow died, and innmediatly his wyfe recovered. It is further declared, that on a day Johne Skirling in Caldeoats, ryding towards Leathem, and meet the said Helen, who was hard say, “Saw yee ever fuch a long-legged man as this?” After which the said Johne fell sicke and dwyned about whil he died. The Sessioun, taking thefe delationes to their confideration, ordeines Helen Small, Bessie Swan, Alexander Allan, Margaret Young, Margaret Webster, to be fummond againft the nixt day for tryell of the præmisses.

January 14.—Whilk day, Helen Small being called, compeired, and being questioned concerning the barme, did confesse that she, being in Jonet Wats house, the said Jonet requestd

hir to cause Margaret Young send a soup barme to hir to bake with, and that she had gotten the same, and desyred the said Alexander Allan to cary it to the said Jonet Watt. Being questioned concerning Alexander Arthurs kow, and his wyffes sicknesse, denied she knew any thing therof but by report. Lykewyse, being questioned concerning Johne Skirlings long legs, denied the same.

Bessie Swan called, compeired, and being questioned concerning the barme which Alexander Allan broght to hir from Helen Small, declared that Alexander Allan broght ane stoup full of barme to hir, which the said Helen Small had sent hir, whilk she did cast in the milne burne.

Alexander Allan called, compeired, declared that the said Helen Small did send the barme with him to the said Bessie Swan.

Margaret Young declares, that Helen Small did seike barme from hir to be sent to Jonet Watt in Monimell, which she desyred Alexander Allan to [take to] the said Jonet, and not to Bessie Swan ; and being posed, if Helen Small had spoken to hir concerning the barme before she came to the Sessioun ? answered, she had.

Margaret Wobster in Kinoquhy, called, compeired, and being questioned, if after she had fitten with Helen Small, that she fell sicke, and whither or not the said Helen being reproved by hir housband, Alexander Arthur, their kow died and she amend ? Answered, that indeed after hir flytting with the said Helen she fell sicke, whilk she tooke from the hand of God ; and that she knew not that hir housband did reprove the said Helen, and that their kow died when she was sicke, and that after the deathe of the kow she amended, whilk she acknowledged lykewyse to come from God. And being questioned, whither she hard the said Helen say, when their kow was dead, " I thank God I have gotten my hearts sythe now ? " denied that she heard the said Helen speake the same, but that she heard others clavering the same, wherof she took no notice.

Agnes Wobster called, compeired, and being questioned, whither or not she knew any thing concerning Helen Small hir speach anent hir goodman his long legges ? Answered, she knew nothing of it, but only heard a flying report, and that hir housband was long sicke and afterward died ; whilk they both tooke from the Lords hand.

This day, James Webster declared that the said Helen Small had promysed to doe him ane evill turne ; whilk the said Helen denied, being posed thairanent. The said Helen is summoned *apud acta* to compeir the next day. James Wobster is apointed to prove the same, and to advertise the minister that the witnesses may be summond (when he hes gotten their names) against the next day.

January 21.—Whilk day, James Wobster being questioned, whither or not he had found any light concerning that speach of Helen Smalls ? Answered, that he had gotten none as yit. The Sessioun apointed the said James to use further diligence, and to acquaint the minister.

January 28.—The whilk day, James Wobster declared he had gotten no further light as yit. The Sessioun ordeins him *ut supra*.

Extract out of the Sessioun Book of Monimell.

The said Helen Small compeirs, and being posed by the Moderator, if she knew that she had been a long tyme bygone suspect and slandered for a witch? she, after some shifting answeres, confessed that she did know it. Being enquired, why she was not carefull to be purged of that slander? she answered, that she could not stope their mouthes, and God would reward them. Being enquired anent the particulars alledged against hir in the Sessioun of Monimell, she denyed all. Wherefor it is recommended to Mr. David Orme to examine the particulars more narrowly. Concerning James Birtlitt, she confesses that she being sent for, went to him; but that it was to gitt a band of 100 merkis which he had of hers; which, notwithstanding, she got not. She denies that she applied anything at all to him. It is recommended to the Sessiouns of Balmirrinnoch and Monimell to try more particularly concerning hir against the next day, and she is summond *apud acta* to compeer the next day.

January 18.—Mr. Walter Greig declares to the Presbyterie the death of Helen Young by sicknesse, who had before confessed hir self to be a witch. Helen Small and Elspet Seith compeiring, and maters concerning them not being sufficiently cleared from the Sessiouns of Monimell and Balmirrinnoch, they are appointed to compeer when the ministers shall advertise them.

February 1.—Mr. Walter Greig returning from the Commisshione of the Kirk, delivered a lettre to the Presbyterie from the said Commisshion, dated January 15, the tenor wherof follows:—

RIGHT REVEREND,

WHEREAS we have been informed that diverse Presbyteries have been negligent, and too suddaine in the admitting to the renewing of the League and Covenant persones that are disaffected, and to whom the favour granted in the explanation of the Act of Commission doth not belong, and the many applicationes are still made to Presbyteries by Malignants, and men that have been deeply involved in that late Engadgement, to be readmitted to the Covenant: Therefore, we have thought it necessary to warne you that you be very circumspect, and take good heed whom you admitt to the Covenant, that so the cause of God suffer no prejudice by your joyneing with the Enemies thereof. And for this cause we desire that the tryall of such, according to the rules and directiones we have formerly given, may be by your selues, and not by your Sessiones; and that you cause registrate your whole proceedings in every one of your Books. And when any questionable causes come before you concerning the admitting of per-

sones to the Covenant, yow shall referre them hither, and apoint the persones who importune yow for that favour to mak their addresses wnto us. And wee cannot conceale from you, if any persone or persones be admittit to renew the Covenant who ar not allowat by our Act and explanation, by the gryt trust committed wnto us, we wilbe necessitated to proceid against such, and to take notice of the Presbyteries proceedings in applying the Act apointed by us to regulate the admitting of persones in the renewing of the Covenant. Yow ar lykewyse heirby desyred to hasten in that report of your diligence, with the list of the persones debarred from the Covenant within the severall churches in yowr bounds. And, so committing yow to the Lords speciall directione, wee remaine.

Which the Presbyterie, taken to their confideration, resolved carefully to obey. Also they received ane other lettre of the fame daitt, the tenor whereof followes :—

RIGHT REVEREND,

Yow shall receive three copies of the new paraphrase of the Psalms, at a mark the peice, which yow wilbe pleased to peruse carefully ; and that yow would amend any fault yow find in them, and send in yowr correctiones to ws with diligence ; for tis not enough to find out faults, except yow also set down your own assay correcting the same. Receive also heir-nyntein Acts of the Assembly at a mark the peice. There ar sent wnto [yow] the Explanationes of our former Act, concerning our debarring of persones from the Covenant, price of the peice of them is six pennies. We must entreat yow to send in the prices of these papers yow have gotten now and formerly with all diligence, that the printer may be payed. Receive also nyntein copies of the Testimonie of this Church against the proceedings of the Sectaries, etc. price of peece 2s. As also, that yee will not faile to send in what is due of the twentie shillings for this and bygon yeeres. We expect yowr diligence heirin, and the report therof ; and so we remaine.

In obedience wherto they did delyver one of the copies of the paraphrase of the Pfalmes to Mr. David Dalgleishe, another to Mr. David Orme, and the thrid to Mr. Walter Greig, apointing them to peruse the fame, and having perused the fame, to delyver them to other brethren to be perused lykwyse by them, that the report may be given in according to the defyre of the Affembly.¹

Another letter also was delyvered to the Presbyterie by Mr. Walter Greig ; the tenor wherof followes :—

¹ This was the version by Francis Rous, which was afterwards sanctioned by the General Assembly, and is still used in the Scottish Church.

REVEREND BRETHREN,

ALBEIT, we have long expected from yow ane accompt of yowr diligence concerning the provision and other particulars relating vnto the severall Kirks within yowr bounds, according to the Act of the Generall Assembly in the year 1647, yet we have hitherto received no satisfaction from yow heirin. And conceiwing yowr negligence in this to have bein very prejudiciall to the setling of yowr severall Kirks, and that a perfect accompt of these things would contribute very much for furthering of the same, therefore, we doe now desyre yow, as yee would not wish the blame to ly vpon yow any longer, to tak pains for setting down the names of all the paroches within yowr bounds, with declaration which of them have ministers, which not; what is the largenesse of the bownds; commodious or incommodious situation of each particular parochè kirk; what is the number of communicants; what kirks ar wnder patrons, what not; who ar the severall patrons; what is the nature and quantity of the present provision, or possible grownd of further provision, or competent maintenance, where the same is not sufficiently provided already. As also what paroches ar vnited, or disvnited, or bettered already; and in what measure by the said Commissioun. And that this may not be delayed or slichted, we trust that yow will immediatly after the sight heirof, to name one of yowr number to tak paines heirin, and that yow wilbe carefull to give vnto him yowr best concurrence and assistance for cleiring of these particulars to yowr severall kirks. Wee will expect a perfect accompt of all these things against the nixt meiting of the Commissioun on February, or as soon therafter as possibly can be. Wee think we shall neid to say no more in a bussinesse tending so much to yowr owne advantage, and to the good and setling of all the kirks within the kingdome, but commends yow to the grace of God, and continowes.

Wee pray yow be carefull that none of the particulars in the Act of Assembly, and sit down in our lettre, be omitted concerning any of yowr Kirks. It is very lyke that these who shall first report their diligence in these particulars shalbe first taken in consideration by the Commissioun of Plantation of Kirks.

In obedience wherto, Mr. Andrew Bennett was apointed to receive from ewerie brother ane information anent the state and condition of their flipend and parochie, according to the defyre of the lettre; which ewerie brother was apointed to bring in to him against the nixt day, that he might prepare the same with all expedition to be sent over to the Commissioun of the Kirk.

This day, Mr. David Orme produceth the proceffe of the Seffioun of Monemell against Helen Small, fufpe& of witchcraft; which, becaufe it is found yet not to be cleired in ewerie particular, it is referred back againe to the said Seffioun for further cleiring. And Helen Small called, com-

peirs, and is apointed to come to the Presbyterie when Mr. David Orme showld advertise hir.

February 15.—Mr. Walter Greig craving advyce, what punishment is to be inflicted wpon a woman who had satt down wpon hir knees and cursed hir neighbour? It is thocht meit, that she shall declare hir repentance publikly before the Congregation.

Mr. Andrew Lawthian, produceing to the Presbyterie his absolvitor before the Commiffars of Edinburgh, concerning his alledged oath of marriage to Elspet Shaw, and he being desyrous to give satisfactioun in the parochie of Falkland, in respect of any scandal given by him during the tyme of his abode their, that he might have a testimoniall from thence to any parochie wher it shall please the Lord to give him occasion to reside: The Presbyterie ordeines the said Mr. Andrew Lawthian to compeir before the pulpit of the kirk of Falkland, vpon ane Saboth before noon, and ther declare his sorrow and greif for all his offences during his abode in Falkland, and especially for his levity in contracting and quytting againe mariage with hir with whom he had fallin in fornication; and also, that through any wncircumspectnesse of his walking, any of that congregation should have taken any offence at him, as if he had bein given to excessive or wntymous drinking; which he hath the more reason to be greived for, because having the honor to preach Gods word, amongst whom he should have bein exemplar for a holy conversation, and crave God and that congregation forgivenesse, and promyse, with the Lords grace, to walk more circumspectly in all tyme comming.

February 26.—The whilk day, after incalling the name of God, ewerie severall brother being requyred, according to the lettre received from the Commission of the Kirk, to give in in writt the estate of the parochie and stipend, the same was given in by ewerie brother, except be Mr. Johne Ramsay, who had not bein present severall dayes before, because of sicknesse, and therfor knew not that it should have bein given in that day; and Mrs. Johne Murray and Johne Litlejohne, who werre absent.

The whilk day, Sir George Morrifon being called, compeirs, and being enquyred anent his judgement of the late vnlawfull Engadgement, he desyred to apoint some two of their number to conferre with him for his

fatiffaction in somethings wherof he doubted ; wherupon the Presbyterie apointed Mr. Walter Greig and Mr. George Thomfone to fpeak with him, and delayed his proceffe till the nixt day.

Capitan Johne Morifon, in the parochie of Darfy, compeirs, and acknowledges, that he had a patent from the Eirle of Lenrick to levie men in the Weft cowntry for the faid vnlawfull Engadgement, and that he was interrupted by ryfing of the Weft cowntry after the mifcariage of the faid Engadgement : The Presbyterie ordeines him to be debarred from the Covenant and communion till the nixt Generall Affembly.

March 8.—Concerning the reference for plantation of Schools, it is apointed, that the nixt day ewery brother repreſent to the Presbyterie the cace of their parochie in reſpect of a School, that theirafter diligence may be uſed for planting ſchools wher they ar wanting.

It is recommended to ſeverall brethren to be carefull to intimat in their ſeverall kirks, wpon the Saboths immediatly before Midſommer and Hallowewen, that no fyres to be fit on wpon theſe nights.

It is yet referred to the enſewing Provinciall, what courſe ſhal be taken with women proceſſed for witchcraft, and not cleired.

Elſpit Seith, in the parochie of Balmirrinoch, compeiring, is examined by the Presbyterie, and ſummond *apud acta* to compeir the nixt day.

March 15.—The whilk day, Andrew Patrik compeiring, and being examined, declared, that in the laſt goeſommer¹ ſawe one, as he was coming furth of the Galrey to goe to his owne houſe, betuixt 11 and 12 houres at ewen, as he was in the weſt fyde of Henry Blak his land, he ſaw 7 or 8 women dancing, with a mekle man in the midſt of them, who did weare² towards him, whil they came to a litle loch, in the which they werre putting him, ſo that his armes werre wett to the ſhoulder blaidſ ; and that he knew none of them except Elſpet Seith, whom (as he affirmes) he knew by hir tongue, for he hard hir ſay to the reſt, “ He is but a filly druken larde ; let him goe.” Being enquiryed, what he was doing that way ſo late ? Answered, that he had bein in Johne Rikie his houſe, tailzeor in the Galrey, ſcheaping clothes ; and that he had ſent for a quart

¹ The beginning of Autumn.

² Gradually approach.

aill, and staying whil it was drucken, it was late. Being enquired, whither he went after that fear? Answered, he went to his oun house, and that he cryed so before he came neir his house, that they who werre in his house opened the doore, and came furth and mett him; and that he went in to his owne house with gryt fear all wett. He being questioned, why he did not reveile the foirsaid mater presently theirafter? Answered, that wpon the morne he told it to Alexander Kirkaldy.

Andrew Patrik and she being confronted before the Presbyterie, he affirms, she denies.

Helen Swyn, in the parochie of Forgen, compeirs and complains, that Andrew Patrik had raised a slander wpon hir as being amongst these women whom he had sein. Andrew Patrik denies that ewer he had spoken of hir. Mr. George Thomfone declares, that wheras the said Helen Swyn had complained in their Session of Kilmany, that Thomas Kynneir, in the said parochie, had slandered hir as being in that number, the Session had called Thomas Kynneir before them; who affirmed, that he heard Andrew Patrik say, that he knew not only Elspit Seith, but also Isobel Troylus and Helen Swyn, amongst those women whom he saw dancing; and that David Arthur, Johnne Grahame, and Andrew Patrik his sonne, was present and heard the samyn. The Presbyterie, considering all the premisses, apoints a meiting wpon Monday the 26 of this instant, for trying the foirsaid mater; and summonds Andrew Patrik and Elspet Seith *apud acta* to compeir the said day; and apoints Mr. Walter Greig to cause summond these that werre in Andrew Patrik his house that night he came hame wett and feared, (as he alledges.) Also, to cause summond Alexander Kirkaldy, to whom he alledges he told it wpon the morrow. As also, to cause summond Jonet Bell to be tryed in a mater of slander concerning Elspet Seith. Also, the Moderator is apointed to writt to Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, to cause summond Johnne Rikie and his wyfe, in the parochie of Forgen, against the said day; also, to cause summond Thomas Kynneir, David Arthur, Johnne Grahame, and Andrew Patrik younger, in the parochie of Kilmany, against the said day, to be tryed in the foirsaid particular.

The brethren being enquired to give in their diligence concerning the

estate of their Schools in their severall paroches ; it was found, that the only way to gett Schols fully settled, was to visite the severall congregations for this effect, which the brethren resolve and intend to doe with the first conveniencie after the first Provinciall.

Martij 26.—Andrew Patrik called, compeiring, being enquired, if he could remember the preceise tyme at which he had seie these women, as he had before alledged? Answered, that it was the last yeir save one, in the goefommer betuixt Michelmes and Mertimes, about what day of the week, or in what week of these, he did not particularlie remember. All thinges he answered precisely as he done before, only he added, that after he came out of Johne Reikie his house, he stayed an houre in his sonnes house.

Johne Rikie called, compeirs, and his oath being taken, he was enquired, if he did remember that Andrew Patrik was at any tyme late in his house? He answered, that the last yeir save one, when he came home from his work, he fand Andrew Patrik waiting wpon him in his sonnes house, and that after he came home he came into his house, with cloath to be a pare of breches to Johne Drybro his servant and sister sonne ; and that Andrew Patrik sent for a quart aill in his house, and stayed their with his sone sheaping the breeks and drinking the quart aill whil about 9 or ten houres.

Johne Rikie his wyfe, called, compeirs, and hir oath being taken, she is enquired anent the fairfaid mater ; whose deposition did in all points agrie with the former.

Andrew Patrik younger called, compeirs, and being enquired, his deposition did in all points agrie with the former.

Margaret Patrik being called, compeirs, and being enquired, if ewer she remembred that hir father came home to his owne house in the night in gryt fear and all wett? Answered, that the last yeir save on in the goefomer, he came in the night to his owne door crying, and that she being afrayd, rose, opened the door, and that he came in grytly afrayd, and all wett. Being enquired, if he told hir what it was that feared him? She answered, that he told hir not.

Alexander Kirkaldy being called, Mr. Walter Greig declared, that he

had forgotten that he was apointed to be fummond, and therefor he was not fummond; bot both he and George Stirk affirmed, that Alexander Kirkaldy had said in their Seffioun, that Andrew Patrik had told him that he had gotten a gryt fear by seing women in the night, and that about Mertimes last save one, and withal he said, he thocht not mekle of it at the tyme.

Andrew Patrik called againe, and enquiryed, if he knew any other amongst these women but Elspet Seith? He affirmed, that he knew none other of them. Being enquiryed, if he had spoken of Ifobel Troylus and Helen Swyn? He denyed that ewer he had spoken of them.

Thomas Kynneir, in the paroche of Kilmany, called, compeirs not. His minister, Mr. George Thomfone, declares, that he came to him on Saturday after he was fummond, and declaired to him that he was fummond to San&tandros against Monday for the fowme of fyve hundreth merkis, wnder the paine of horning; and that compeiring before the Seffioun on Sondag, he deponed, that he heard Andrew Patrik say, in James Stein his house in Kilmany, before David Arthure, Johne Grahame, and Andrew Patrik younger, that he saw eight or nyne women in the night, who put him in the water to the showldere blaeds, and that he knew three of them, Ifobel Troylus, Elspet Seith, and Helen Swyn.

David Arthur called, compeirs not. His minister declares that he had come to him, and spoken to him, that he might not travell for a fore fyde.

Johne Grahame called, compeirs, and being examined, declared, that he heard not Andrew Patrik speake of Ifobell Troylus nor Helen Swyn.

The whole mater is referred till the first meiting after the Provinciaill, and all perones having interest ar ordeined to be fummond to be their.

Aprill 12.—Anent the mater of Elspet Seith, suspet of witchcraft, the Presbyterie resolves to adwyse with the Justice Deput, Mr. Alexander Colven, if what has bein found against hir be sufficient grownd to recommend hir to the civill judge to be incarcerat for tryall; and, for that effect, ordained the clerk to extract hir proceffe out of the Presbyterie book, and to delyver it, together with the proceffe of the Seffioun of Balmirrinoch, to the first of their number that goes to the Commiffioun of the Generall Affemby, wher they may have occasion of adwyfing with the Justice Deput,

Mr. George Thomson is ordeined to cause summond Thomas Kynneir and the rest of the parochie, anent the felander of witchcraft wented, as was alledged, by Andrew Patrik against Helen Swyn.

Apryl 19.—Anent the foirfaid felander of witchcraft raised upon Helen Swyn by Andrew Patrik, as is alledged, the foirfaid Andrew not being summoned to this day, Mr Walter Greig is ordeined to cause summond him against the nixt day.

Apryl 26.—Thomas Kynneir, being called and questioned anent the scandale of witchcraft raised against Helen Swyn, declared, that Andrew Patrik elder had said so to him before thir witneses, David Arthure, Jean Kinloch, Andrew Patrik younger, and Marjory Stein. Being questioned, whither it was Andrew Patrik elder or younger that had said so? Answered, that he was sure Andrew Patrik elder did affirme to him that he saw Elspet Seith and Isobell Troylus, and that Helen Swyn was spoken off also, but whither by Andrew Patrik elder or younger he dothe not weill remember.

Andrew Patrik elder, being called and questioned anent the foirfaid mater, denyed that he knew any of these women whom he saw except Elspet Seith; and denyed also that ewer he spake of any other to Thomas Kynneir, or any body else. The said Andrew being questioned, if he had any thing to except against any of the witneses? answered that he had nothing.

David Arthur compeired, and being questioned wpon oath, deponed, that he heard young Andrew Patrik say to Thomas Kynneir, in his fathers heiring, that old Andrew, his father, said, that Helen Swyn was amongst these women; and that in the meane tyme, his father spak nothing against it. Being questioned, whither he heard Andrew Patrik speak of Isobel Troylus, or not? Deponed, that he saw old Andrew rownding¹ to Thomas Kynneir, and immediatly the said Thomas spoke out, saying, "I shall ridle what he hath rounded;" which was, that Isobel Troylus was amongst them. Wherunto the said Andrew replied, saying, "The thing that I have said is truth." Being questioned, if he heard of any other woman? Deponed, that he heard of none other, save of Elspet Seith.

¹ Whispering.

Andrew Patrik younger, being called, not compeiring, Mr. George Thomfone is ordeined to caufe fummond him againft the nixt day, together with Marjory Stein, and Jean Kinloch as witneffes in the faid mater.

May 3.—Andrew Patrik younger called, compeirs: being folemnly attested, declares, that he nevere fpake, nor heard his father fpeake, that he knew any of thefe women, except Elfpet Seith, and that his father was drunk at [the] tyme when it was alledged he fpake thefe thinges. The Prefbyterie ordaines Mr. George Thomson to confront the faid Andrew with David Arthur before the Seffion of Kilmany anent the foirfaid fpeeches, and to report.

Jean Kinloch and Marjory Stein being called, and not compeiring, Mr. George Thomson declared, that they came to him, and faid they knew nothing in the faid mater. He is ordeined to examine them before their Seffion, and to report the nixt day.

May 10.—This day, Sir James Scott of Tarvett compeired, and being asked, if he had fubferyved the Proteftation (or band of adherence theirto) againft the Supplication of the fhyre to the Parliament againft the late wnlawfull Engadgement? who answered, that he was ficke in the tyme of the Proteftation, and that he never faw it, nor fubferyved it, nor the Band of Adherence theirto: And withall confessed, that he had fitten in the committy, and given out ordors for the promoving of the faid wnlawfull Engadgement; which he acknowledged to be a gryt fault, and professed his unfained forrow for the fame; affirming alfo, that he never lyked the Engadgement, nor yet was violent in the advancement of it; but only what he did was in obedience to the law. The Prefbyterie, taking his declaration to their confideration, werre feverally enquiryed, both minifters and elders present, if they knew any thing contrare theirto, and finding nothing, ordeined him to be admittit to the fwearing and fubferyving of the Covenant in the Seffion of Sires the nixt Lords day.

May 17.—The whilk day, Mr. William Levingftone reported the diligence of the Seffion of Falkland, extra& out of their book as followes:

May 16, 1649. The Seffion of Falkland being conveyned for giving answere to the questiones ordeined be the Presbyterie to be enquiryed, touching the scandalous report raised in the parochie of Falkland, did answere as followes: To the first, namely, Of whom it is? It

is answered, that it is of Sir Mungo Murray and my Lady Abercomby. To the 2d, What it is? It is answered, that in particular they cannot condescend wpon it, except in this farr, that their was, as is reported, some behaviour betuixt them, which gave such offence to hir howsband, as he went away in gryt rage, and left hir behind him: what hes bein the behaviour in particular, must be best knowne to my Lord Abereromby, who took the offence. As to the thrird, How it was raised? It is answered, that the said Lord Abereromby his going away in such a rage, and leaving his Lady behind him, and, as it is reported, his owne expressiones of greif and anger within the Palace, occasioned the raising of this report.

Extract out of the Sessioun Book of Falkland, and subscryved by Mr. ROBERT ARNOT, Clerk.

The Presbyterie taking the same to their consideration, they ordeine the Sessioun of Falkland to enquire particularly to what finne that behaviour tended betuixt Sir Mungo Murray and my Lady Abereromby, which is reported to have given offence to hir howsband; and what werre these expressiones of greif and anger wttered by him in the Palace, which ar said to have occasioned the raising of the foirfaid scandalous report.

This day, Mr. George Thomefone gave in the diligence of the Sessioun of Kilmany, as followes:

Majj 6, 1649. The whilk day, the Sessioun, according to the Presbyteries apointment, did call before them David Arthur, and Andrew Patrik younger, and conveyed them in the face of the Sessioun. David Arthur did stand close to that which he had said before the Presbyterie, without any alteration. Andrew Patrik first denyed that his father had spoken any thing of any other women then Elspet Seith; theirafter, he said that he knew not whither he spake of any other or not. At last, he affirmed that he speired at his father, if Helen Swyn was among them? and that his father answered that she was; but that presently he turned his tongue againe, and denyed it. He affirmed, also, that his father and he, and all the company, were in drink.

Jean Kinloch called, compeires, and being examined, did declare that she heard nothing of their discourse, she being but coming and going to them, save that she heard Andrew Patrik elder say, that he had bein drowned had not Elspet Seith saved him.

Marjory Stein called, compeirs not. Jean Kinloch declared, that the reason of hir not compeiring was, that she was gone to visite hir sister, who was sicke, and send for to hir.

The Presbyterie ordeines Mr. George Thomefon to cause fummond Thomas Kynneir to compeir before the Presbyterie the nixt day, either to give up witnesses for probation of his alleadgeance of witchcraft against Helen Swyn, or els to be discerned scandaler; and apoints the Sessioun of Kilmany to tak ordor with their druckenness.

This day, Mr. David Dagleishe declared, that Marjory Winster had

yesterday made a voluntar confeſſioun of witchcraft, which this day ſhe had denied. The Prefbyterie recommends the ſaid mater to the care of the Seſſioun of Couper, and in the meane tyme apoints Mr. James Wedderburne and Mr. Walter Greig to joyne with Mr. David Dalgleiſhe to conferr with hir after the Prefbyterie.

Maij 31.—Mr. David Reatt deſyred the advyſe anent the cenſure of ſome in his paroche, who werre plewing on the day of thankſgiving. The Prefbyterie ordeines them to be ſharply rebuiked before the Seſſioun; and that miniſters heirafter ſhall publickly diſcharge, from the pulpit, the lyke heirafter at ſolemne faſts or thankſgiving, wnder the paine of eccleſiaſtick cenſure, that none pretend ignorance.

Mr. William Livingſtoun reported the diligence of the Seſſioun of Falkland, in anſwere to the Prefbyteries queries. To the firſt, That the ſcandalous behaviour betuixt Sir Mungo Murray and my Lady Abercromby, as is reported, did tend to the finne of adultery. And to the ſecond, That my Lord Abercromby his expreſſiones of greif and anger, which occaſioned the raiſing of the ſaid report, can not be otherwyſe knowne then by examination of my Lord Annandail his family, which they referre to the Prefbyterie.

Mr. James Wedderburne declared, that he went to Marjory Winſter, who ſeemed to him to diſſemble and feinzie madneſſe. Mr. David Dalgleiſhe lykewyſe declared, that ſhe had gone away to San&tandros whence ſhe came. The Prefbyterie ordeines Mr. William Row to acquaint the miniſters of San&tandros heirwith.

Junij 7.—Mr. George Nairne came for correſpondence from the Prefbyterie of San&tandros, whom the Prefbyterie deſyred to cauſe their Prefbyterie ſummond my Lord and my Lady Abercromby to compeir before ws againſt this day fyften dayes; and lykewyſe to try anent Marjory Winſter, ſuſpect of witchcraft, fled to their bownds.

Junij 14.—This day, Mr. Walter Greig produced the proceſſes of the Seſſioun of Balmirrinoch and Prefbyterie againſt Elſpet Seith, together with Mr. Alexander Colwill, Juſtice deput, his adwyſe theiranent, ſubſcryved with his hand, declaring, that in them their ar ſufficient grownds againſt hir of incarceration *ad inquisitionem*. Lykeas, Mr. Walter pro-

duced a warrand, from the Parliament to the Magistrats of Couper, to apprehend and incarceration hir. The Presbyterie ordeines Mr. John Alexander to goe and acquaint the Magistrats of Couper heirwith, and desyre their assistance therein.

Mr. William Row reported, that the Earle of Crawford and his family did not joyne (my Lady being sicke and not able to joyne) in the thanksgiving, desyring the Presbyteries direction thereanent. The Presbyterie resolves to enquire at the neighbour Presbyteries what they have done in sic caiffes; and for this end, ordeines Mr. David Reatt to correspond with Sanctandros, and Mr. William Livingstoun with Kirkaldy.

Junij 21.—The whilk day, Mr. Walter Greig reported, that the Magistrats of Couper refused a prison for Elspet Seith, notwithstanding that the Session of Balmirrinoch had sent two elders to be caution for hir charges during hir imprisonment. David Robertstone compeired, and in the name of the Towne of Couper offered the theifes-holl to be a prison to hir. The Presbyterie ordeines Mr. Andrew Bennett, and George Paterstone, to represent to the Magistrats the inconveniency of that place, and to requyre a more fitting.

The Presbytery ordeines Commissioners to the Generall Assembly to have their charges payed constantly heirafter, as they werre the last yeir, viz. that these who have bein Commissioners before shall have 50 merks. And ordeines the brethren to bring in thair severall proportionnes of the samyn against this day eight dayes; and Mr. Andrew Bennett to be collector of it. Mr. David Reatt protested against the act, whose reasons shall be sein.

Mr. David Reat reported that he had corresponded with the Presbyterie of Sanctandros the last day, and declared, that that Presbyterie had referred such malignants amongst them as absented themselves from the thanksgiving, and werre formerly suspendit from the Covenant and Communion, to the next Generall Assembly. The Presbytery resolves to follow that same course with the Earle of Crawford and such of his family as did absent themselves from the thanksgiving; who ar theirfor referred to the ensuing Generall Assembly.

Junij 28.—The Presbytery recommends to the severall brethren that

the Catechese, discharged by the last Generall Assemblie, be not used within their bounds.¹

The Presbyterie apointes our Commissioners to represent to the Generall Assemblie these following desyres :

First, That the Assemblie would think wpon a way for helping the provision of the Poore in these paroches where the heritors and possessors of lands doe not reside.

2. That the Assemblie would presse the meitting of that Committy of lawiers, phytitians, and divynes, for the Tryall of Witches.

3. That the Parliament may be desyred to cause the Committy for Plantation of Kirks to fitt, that benefitts granted by the Parliament to the Kirk may be confirmed in law wher neid is.

4. That the Assemblie wold carefully enquire after that divisive Supplication that was hatching about the tyme of the last Generall Assemblie, that this Presbyterie and province may be freed from any imputation therein.

5. That ane wniforme course for wsing of the Directory of Worship may be apointed throughtout the Kirk.

August 6, 1649.—This day, we received a lettre from the Presbytrie of Perth, desyring our concurrence for taking away the scandalous and sinfull fying of shearers on the Sabbath day at Abernethy. The Presbyterie ordeines the same to be discharged publikly out of pulpit, and that there be no fying of shearers upon the Lords day at Abernethy, nor Couper, nor any wher else within our bounds ; and Mr. David Dalgleshe, with Ferny, ar ordeined to represent the same to the Committy of the shyre, and to desyre them to apoint some other day for that effect ; and a lettre to be written to the Presbyterie of Perth signifeing the same.

The proceses of the Sessioun of Kilmany, (together with these that werre adjoyned with them,) against Elfpet Bell, is committed to Mr. James Wedderburne to be revised against the next day.

¹ The General Assembly, on 28 July 1648, prohibited the "selling, or using in Schools or families of a little Catechism, entitled, *The A, B, C, with the Catechism*, which contains very gross errors in point of universal Redemption, and in the number of the Sacraments." At the same time, the Catechism agreed upon by the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, was sanctioned "as a common Catechism for the three kingdomes."—*Acts Gen. Ass.*

Elspet Seith is ordeined to be recommended to the Magistrats of Couper to be incarceration for tryall. The Baillyies ar defyred to caufe keip hir cloffe, and permitt no body to offer violence to hir, nor have acceffe to hir, but fuch as the Presbyterie fhall appoint. The Presbytrie ordeines two of their brethren to come in all the dayes of the week, *per vices*, except Saturday, to exhort hir and pray with hir; and defyres Mr. James Givane be clerk to the proceffe.

Alexander Jamefon being called, and pofed, If he had apointed and fought a duell with Henry Sibbald? Acknowledged that he had foughten with him, but accidentaly, and not by any mutuall appointment betuixt them, and theirfor denyed it to be a dwell. He is fummond, *apud acta*, to compeir the next day.

Mr. Andrew Bennett declared, that he had fent over the money for the Irish boyes to our Commiffioners at Edinburgh, and Mr. William Row produced a difcharge heirof, fubferyved by Mr. James Hamiltoun, who was ordeined to be the receiver of the fame.

Mr. Alexander Balfour and Ferny ar ordeined to defyre the proveft and magistratts of Couper to change their Monday and Saturdayes mercatts to fome other day of the week.

Auguft 23.—The brethren ar apointed to difcharge publikly out of pulpit the fying of fherers wpon the Lords day; and to intimat that the tyme apointed by the Committy of the fhyre is Saturday, about 5 houres after-noon in Couper; and at Abernethy by the Committy of Perth, on Monei-day at 5 in the morning. Mr. Lawrence Oliphant is ordeined, in name of the Presbyterie, to fignify fo much to the Presbyterie of Perth.

Henry Sibbald, being called, confefled, that he had ignorantly faid that he had fought a dwell with Alexander Jamefone, but denyed that they had apointed to fight, and that it was accidentall betuixt them. The lyke was declared by Alexander Jamefone. The Presbyterie finding nothing to the contrair, and heiring that the men werre reconciled, ordeined them to be gravely rebuiked for their difcord, and exhorted by the Moderator to a better cariage.

The brethren ar exhorted carefully to purge their Seffions from scandalous and ignorant perfones; and that overtures fhallbe found out for it.

September 6.—This day, the brethren ar interrogat, If family worship be advanced in their paroches? It is answered, some small progresse in it, yet not so full as they wold wish.

This day, it is apointed that all the persons who deponed against Elspet Seith be summond against the next day, to be againe confronted with hir, and the brethren ar apointed to examine hir.

The Moderator produceth a lettre from the Committy of the shyre for purging of the army. And also to try what scandalous persones, pedyor-women¹ ar amongst them; and it is apointed, that ewery minifter shall intimat to the congregation that they come to the Sessioun and declare.

September 13.—This day, Elspet Seith compeires, and being confronted with Jean Bruise, the said Jeane declares, that Elspet Seith had said to hir sister, “Is your kow calfed?” The young lassie answered, “Know ye not that our kow is calfed?” The said Elspet replied, “Their is milk bewest me, and milk be-east, and aill in David Stennous house, and a hungry heart can gett none of it. The diwell put his foot among it.” And before that tyme tomorrow ther kow wold eate none; wherwpon they went to find Elspet Seith, but she keiped hir close within hir house 4 dayes and was not sein; but the said Elspet affirmed, that the wind was in hir doore. At last the said Jean went to hir, and defyred hir to come sie their kow, and defyred some feids from hir. She answered, she had no feids, but she showld gitt some; who came with the feids sometymes weitt, and sometymes dry; and the said Jean affirmes, that the said Elspet went in to sie the kow, and layd hir hand wpon hir bake, and said, “Lamby, lamby, yee wilbe weill enough.” And from that tyme furth the kow amended.

It is also declared by the said Jean, that she used to fitt downe in the way when she mett any body.

Isobel Oliphant declares, that hir kow, with the rest of the kyne, use to pluk thak out of Elspet Seithes house; the said Elspet Seith came furth and strak hir kow. Bot before the morrow, she affirmed, that the said Elspet did cast a cantrep on hir kow, that she wold not eate nor give milk, but did dwyne on a long tyme till she dyed. The said Isobell affirmed,

¹ Apparently women of loose character, who followed the army as *pedlars*.

that she newer spake it, but Elspet Seith hir selfe did blaze it abroad. She declares, that she did sitt downe in the gate ordinarily.

Jonet Miller being called, and confronted with the said Elspet, declares, that she came and looked in at Elspet Seithes door, did see hir drawing a cheyne tether, and thereafter the said Elspet tooke the tether, and did cast it east and west, and south and north.¹ She asked hir what she was doing; answered, "I am ewen looking at my kowes tether." The said Jonet affirmes, that it is not a yeir since till Mertimes, and it is evidently knowne that she had not a kow this sixteen yeir.

The said Elspet denyes all, and wold have used violence to the said Jonet if she had bein permitted.

Jean Anderfone being called, and confronted with the said Elspet, declared, that the said Elspet requyred milk, and she gave hir bread but no milk. And when she went to milk hir kow, she fand nothing but blood first, and thereafter blak water all that season. The said Jean being questioned, If she did call the said Elspet a witch? She confessed she did. She declared also, that the said Elspet used to sit downe when she mett any body.

Andrew Patrik, being confronted with the said Elspet, is questioned, If ewer he saw the said Elspet early or late in the fold? Answered, that he had sein hir severall tymes, and once he saw hir in the morning, and he had a litle dog who barked despytefully at hir: She desyred him, "Stay the dog." He answered, "I wold it wold worry yow." Their-after the dog newer eated. He affirmed also, that he saw hir amongst these women dancing. She denied all.

The said Andrew affirmed, that Johnne Blak in the paroche of Forgen, and Johnne Mitchel in the paroche of Leuchars, could declare concerning hir; wherfor the Presbyterie ordeines Mr. James Wedderburne, and Mr. Johnne Dury to wrett to these paroches to cause summond the saids persones.

Margaret Boyd is confronted with the said Elspet, and declares, that

¹ Witches were said to have had the power of making the milk of their neighbour's cow flow into their own vessels, by drawing, or *milking* (as it was termed,) a tedder in Satan's name, and circulating it in a contrary direction to the sun.

hir Goodman, Robert Broun, went to deathe with it, that Elfpet Seith and other two did ryde him to deathe; which he declared before the ministers wyfe, Mr. James Sibbald, scholmaster, and David Stennous, elder. She affirms also, that he asked his wyfe, If she did not sic hir goe away? She feared, and answered him, that she saw not; and immediatly he was eased.

Jonet Miller againe compeirs, and declares that hir howfband, David Grahame, saw Elfpet Seith and Helen Young meitt, the one going one way, and the other another, the said Elfpet sat downe on hir knees, and Helen Young layd hir hand on hir shoulder, and she spak some words to hir. The said David Grahame questioning Helen Young on hir deadbed, what she was doing then when they mate? She answered, that she was defying Elfpet Seith to witch him. He questioned hir, why she wold not doe it hir selfe? She answered, she had no power.

Ifobel Blak called, and confronted with the said Elfpet, declares nothing, but that she wfed ordinarily to hurch downe in the gate lyk a hare.

The brethren ar apointed to meitt with hir for tryall; Fryday, Mr. Johne Alexander; Monday, Mr. Laurence Oliphant; Twysfley, Mr. James Martin; Weddensday, Mr. Johne Litlejohne.

September 20.—For purging of the Army, Mr. David Reatt declares, that their is one Johne Watfon quartered with them who was in the late Engadgement.

Mr. Alexander Balfour declares, that in Ebdy their is also Johne Litle.

Mr. Andrew Bennett declares, that one Andrew Crocatt had long since ravished a woman in their paroche; and therfor now desyres to know if he werre in the rolls of foldiers.

Mr. Walter Greig declares, that one Johne Carny had committed a ryot within their paroche.

Concerning the tryall of others ther, it is recommended farder diligence.

This day compeirs Johne Blak, who declared, that he saw a hare sucking a kow, and she run in among the hemp towards Elfpet Seiths house.

This day, Mr. David Orme produceth a proces against Thomas Marre, concerning his innaturality to his parents. It is referred to the Acts of Parliament and Provinciall.

Mr. David Dalgleshe defyred to be referred to the Provinciall, anent the forme of teaching the Catechise for the use of ruder people.

October 11.—This day, the Moderator did question the brethren who werre apointed to try Elspet Seith, suspect of witchcraft, that week. It is answered, that they had found nothing confessed.

It is apointed, that two of the brethren shall meitt, *per vices*, for tryall of Elspet Seith.

October 25.—This day, the Presbytrie apoints two brethren to goe to the provest and bailzies of Couper, and to enquire anent Elspet Seith, suspect of witchcraft, if they wold tak hir off their hand, and put hir in a close prison, wher none might have acceffe to hir, and that they wold apoint some to watch hir wpon hir [their ?] owne expenss.

This day, Andrew Clerk, in the paroehe of Darfy, appeirs before the Presbyterie, for being of a long tyme ignorant and slighting the dyetts of examination. He is apointed to mak publik declaration of his repentance in sackcloth before the pulpit, and to keep the dyetts of examination when the minister shall requyre him; and if betuixt this and Candelmes he shall not give evidence of more diligence to learne, they will proceed against him in the sentence of excommunication.

[Mr. William Wemyss, minister at Auchterhouse.]

This day, the Magistrats of Couper returned ane answer to the Presbyterie, shewing, that they wold give no other concurrence in trying of Elspet Seith, except the theiffes-holl to be a wardhowse for hir. It is apointed, that the Commissioners shall supplicat the Commiſſion of Eſtates to cause the towne of Couper concurre for trying of hir, and to cause them watch hir.

November 8.—It is apointed, that Mr. Walter Greig shall correspond with Sanctandros, anent supplicating the Committy of Eſtates, for causing the towne of Couper concurre in the tryall of Elspet Seith, according to a warrand from the Parliament.

November 21.—Thomas Kynneir, in the paroehe of Kilmany, appears before the Presbyterie, for wenting imprudently what he could not prove, caling Helen Swyn a witch, having nothing for it but that Andrew Patrik had rownded it to him. He is apointed to mak publik declaration of his repentance for the ſclander.

They also defyre, that a list of the names of the poore in ewery paroehe be broght in to the Presbyterie. As also, a list of theſe that ſtand out and have not ſubſcryved the Covenant,

The whilk day, Sir Robert Crichtoun, in the parochie of Falkland, appeirs, and acknowledges himself to have bein at Sterling, and to have bein at Philiphaugh, and to have bein with James Graham in his rebellious. He is referred to the Commission of the Generall Assembly.

December 6.—Elspet Seith, in the parochie of Balmirrinloch, suspect of witchcraft, appeiring, the Presbyterie, considering that the town of Couper wold not assist in warding and watching the said Elspet, (according to the Act of Parliament,) and not finding it possible to gett hir otherwyse tryed, having called hir before them, did ordein hir, lyk as she promysed to compeir againe when ewer she shold be requyred.

December 20.—The whilk day, Mr. William Livingstoun declares to the Presbyterie, that he had agreed with the heritors of the parochie of Falkland, anent the augmentation of his stipend, and for furnishing the Communion Elements, and to give fowrty pounds for his howse meall; which is allowed by the Presbyterie.

This day, Mr. Johne Berwik, in the parochie of Falkland, acknowledges that he had spoken rashly of the Marques of Argyle. His fault being gravely laid to his charge by the Moderator, he is apointed to mak publik declaration of his repentance before the pulpit in the Kirk of Falkland.

January 17, 1650.—It is apointed by the Presbyterie, that my Lord Abercromby, for removing of that scandal and report raised by him vpon his Lady at Falkland, shall appeir in the Kirk of Falkland, wpon ane Sondag before noon after sermon, and having acquaint the minister with his presence and resolution to satisfie, shall declare his fault in the featt quher he shall happen to sitt publikly in presence of the congregation; and so shalbe receaved by the minister of the said kirk. And for that effect, ordeines Mr. James Wedderburne to acquaint the Presbyterie of Sanctandros heirwith, that they may urge him heirvnto.

This day, Sir George Morison, being called, appeirs before the Presbyterie, and acknowledges that he had subscriyved the Protestation against the Supplication of the Kirk; he professing his sorrow for the same, he did subscriyve the Renunciation of that Protestation. He is apointed to mak publik declaration of his repentance the nixt Lords day in the kirk of Darfy, and so to be admittit to the Covenant and Communion.

This day, Mr. David Dalgleishe reports from the Committy of the shyre, that the Committy was beginning to tak up a list of the Malignants. As also, that they werre entring to find a way for provision of the poore.

January 31.—The whilk day, Mr. Johne Makgill elder, Moderator, with Mr. David Orme, minister at Monemell, reported that, according to the apointment of the Presbyterie, they went to Collesly the 6 of this instant, their mett with the Heritors of the said paroehe for setling the minister, according to the act of Parliament, in stipend, manse, gleib, communion elements, grasse, and foggish; and fand them content in all particulars, according to the late act, to mak out for stipend fixe chalders victuall, one hundreth pounds, fyfty merks for communion elements, and to give him fyve hundreth merks for reedifieing of his manse; and that the Presbyterie designe grasse with his gleib, with the priviledges of fewell and foggish, whilk accordingly they designed: whilk diligence the Presbyterie did approve, recommending to the Lords Commiffioners for surrenders the ratification heirof, together with the reedifieing in quality and quantity as shall seem fittest to their Lordships.

Peter Hay of Forrett, being called, appeirs before the Presbyterie, and acknowledges his sorrow for being a Roetmaster¹ in the late finfull Engadgement. He is apointed to subscryve the Band annexed to the Declaration (which he did), and to mak publik declaration of his repentance the nixt Sabaoth in the kirk of Logy.

February 28.—This day, Mr. David Dalgleishe presents a letter from Thomas Setoun coronett his mother, shewing hir consent to his mariage; together with a testificat from Collonel Sir Johne Browne, of his satisfiacion for being in the Engadgement; as also, a testimoniall from Mr. David Lyndsay, minister at Bahelvie, of his good education. The Presbyterie apoints him to be married.

This day, their is presented 19 Declarationes of the Committy of Eftates, together with the Kirks Declaration in answere to James Grahame his Declaration. The brethren ar apointed to reid the Kirks Declaration in ewery kirk the nixt Sabaoth.

¹ *Ritmaster*, a Captain of horse.

March 21.—The whilk day, is presented a lettre from the Commiffion of the Generall Affembly, ordeining a faft to be keiped the first Sabaoth of Apryl, for the fame caufes that the former faft was keiped ; and that wee may concurre with the Commiffioners to his Majeftie. It is apointed to be intimat the laft Sabaoth of March.

The whilk day, the Prefbyterie having receaved a lettre from the Prefbyterie of Kirkaldy, and presented by Mr. Henry Wilkie, that new erected landward parochie of Kirkaldy had given a call to Mr. Patrik Wems, expectant amongft us, to be their minifter, which they had approven ; and to interpoſe our authority with the ſaid Mr Patrik to follow the ſaid call. The Prefbyterie, taking the foirfaids to their ferious confideration, doe advyſe the ſaid Mr. Patrik to follow the call given to him by the parochie and Prefbyterie of Kirkaldy, and to goe to the ſaid Prefbyterie and enter to his tryalls as he ſhalbe requyred.

Apryl 11.—James Dury, in the parochie of Newburgh, being delated, and being obſerved to be ane ordinar breaker of the Sabaoth, and contemning the diſcipline of the Kirk, is apointed to be ſummond to appear before the Prefbyterie this day eight dayes.

The A& anent civile mul&ts, and eſtabliſhing of Judicatories in Seſſiouns for exa&ting mul&ts, and all A&ts relative to finne, ar apointed to be broght home by the Commiffioners.

Maij 9.—This day, the new paraphraſe of the Pfalmes came from the Commiffion of the Kirk ; ewery brether received a copy, and werre apointed to intimat to their congregationes on the Sabaoth following before noon and afternoon to pra&tife them.

J. Dury.—James Dury, in the parochie of Newburgh, being called, compeirs, and was declared, be the minifter, to have bein out of the kirk eight Sabaoths ; and becauſe he wold nowayes give ſatiſſaction, by ſubmitting to the diſcipline of the kirk, he is recommendit to the civile magiſtrate to be put in firmance till he fand ſufficient caution to give ſatiſſaction to the order of the Kirk.

At Logy, Maij 16.—*Viſitation of Logy.*—The whilk day, the Prefbyterie mett at the Kirk of Logie, (according to the former ordinance,) Mr. David Beatt preached. After incalling of the name of God, is produced, for-

maly indorfed, the roll of the heritors and elders is called for, produced ; and all of them being cited, compeired, except Southesk, for whom the Laird of Aitoun wndertook. The Moderator declares to them the end of their meitting.

The draught of the interrogatories concerning minifters and elders ar red ; both of thame ar taken fworne to declare the truthe, in fo far as they know ; all ar removed, except Alexander Ramfay, who, upon his oath declares, that the minifter had a litle forgetfulneffe in celebrating the Communion, viz. that he fate at the end of the table, and did reach the elements to als many as he could ; and that he was flak in vifiting the ficke ; that fome tymes he red the papers himfelfe, fent from the Commiffion of the Kirk, and fometymes he caufed the clerk of the Seffion to reid them ; and that he was flak in vifiting of families, and that he inclined to a fet forme of prayer.

William Bell declares, that the minifter is flak in vifiting the ficke ; that he hes keiped in his howfe, for the fpace of a yeir, a woman fcandalous for want of testimoniall (thogh it was requyred by the elders), and admitting hir to the Communion.

Mr..James Burne declares, that the minifter is fparing in fpeaking againft the ewills of the tyme, efpecially malignancy ; and that he fpeaks not enough for our delyverance from James Grahame ; and that his giving of the Communion was impertinent, and did not pleafe him, viz. firft, taking it by himfelf alone, then giving the elements to als many as he cowld reach, which was his old cuftome ; and that he had a woman in his howfe without a testimoniall, as faid is ; that he had fome converfing with malignants, efpecially with Mr. James Hey ; that he is flak in vifiting the ficke and families ; that fome tymes he reftraines the liberty of elders in Seffion, but lately hath amended it.

Johne Miller declares, that he finds more comfort in other minifters doctrine nor in his ; and that their is a difference betuixt his celebratting of the Communion and others. In the other points he deponed as the former.

James Cunnings declares, that he is flak in fpeaking againft malignants ; his weekly catechifing is intimat to none except to thofe who ar advertifed by the beddell.

The rest of the elders ar called, who depone, that the minister is flak in vifiting the ficke, and keipes a woman without a teftimoniall in his howfe, as faid is ; that before they had no freedome to fpeak in Seffion, but now they have ; that he was flak in reproving malignants ; and that his ordinar text was in the Revelation, and his lecture in Job.

All the elders defyres the minister to be admonifhed to intimat his weekly catechifing publikly ; and that they might have a fchole. The heritors, who werre not elders, declares, that they cowld fay nothing, in refpect they werre not refidents within the parochie. The brethren of the Prefbyterie (at leff fome of them) regrates his vnseasonable filence in tyme of the Engadgement againft Malignants.

The elders ar removed, the minister is called wpon, and, wpon his oath, depones, that the elders werre very obedient in all things, and diligent in attending their callings.

The minister, heritors, and elders being altogether present, they ar demanded, if they had a fchole ? Answered, not for the present. And being asked, what overture they wold make for having one ? Answered, that they werre content that the fcholemafter fhould have the annuelrent of that 1000 merks left by the ynquihle Laird of Logy ; and that the heritors werre content to adde to the faid annuell 40 lib. yeirly, and they proportionally to be fteitit for that effect ; and the tennents to give 3 bolls beir yeirly ; and all condiscend that a fchole fhould be built *primo quoque tempore*, and a fcholmafter provyded.

It is demanded, if the minister hes for the present a fufficient manfe and gleib, with the pertinents, according to the act of Parliament ? It is answered, that he had a manfe, with two aikers of land, without the pertinents. The minister is ordered to use all diligence for helping this defect.

Mr. George Thomson is enquired, what he hes observed in the Seffion book ? Answered, that he finds many imperfyte and informall proceffes in it ; and that their was feveral acts wnbeseeming a Seffion book, and feveral mulcts employed in civile uses ; all which he cleired from the book at that instant.

The minister, heritors, and elders removed, the Prefbyterie falls wpon advyng what fhallbe the conclusion of that dayes work. And whil they

ar advyſing, Mr. Johne Dury comes in, and earneſtly deſyres a helper, promyſing, for his part, to give the augmentation preſently granted be the Commiſſion for plantation of kirks for his maintenance during his lyfetye. The Prefbyterie is very well pleaſed with the overture. Therfore the heritors ar called wpon, and declares the ſame to them, who werre very weell content therewith, promyſing, for their part, to adde to the ſaid augmentation a 100 lib. yeirly during the ſaid Mr. Johne his lyfetye. They being removed, the Prefbyterie finds thir particulars proven by the elders, viz. 1. Diſſorderly and corrupt celebratting of the Communion. 2. Negligent in viſiting the ſicke. 3. Keiping in his howſe a yeir a woman ſcandalous for want of a teſtimoniall, thogh it was requyred by the elders, and admitting hir to the Communion. 4. Slak in ſpeaking againſt malignancy. 5. Sometye he reſtrained elders freedome, but now hath amendit it. 6. Chufing impertinent places of Scripture for his ordinary text in preaching and lecturing, viz. Revelation laſt; Job for lecture. 7. No ignorant ar debarred from the Communion.

Junij 12.—Mr. George Robertſone his buſſineſſe.—Mr. Johne Makgill younger, refuſeth to ſubſcryve Mr. George Robertſone his teſtimoniall, in reſpect he had heard that he had wttered ſome light impertinent expreſſiones, and wnbefeeming one aiming at the miniſtrie, as that he ſaid, he could eaſily winne the favour of any gentlewoman, and in the end give hir a blew: and that if Lady Margaret Kennedy¹ werre a good chriſtian, ſhe wold not ſtay in my Lord Crawfuird his howſe: and he ſaid, “I wiſhe I werre hanged, if I be married with Helen Kob, I ſhall call all malignants to the marriage, and my Lord Crawfuird with the firſt:” and that my Lord Crawfuird was as gryt a malignant as James Grahame.

Mr. George Robertſone, being called and queſtioned anent theſe thinges, confeſſeth that he ſaid he cowlde winne the favour of any gentle woman, but to his beſt memory he did not ſay he wold give hir a blew, nor any thing to that ſenſe: he denyes the ſecond; he denyes alſo the thrid: He confeſſeth that he ſaid, whoſoewer they werre, be it my Lord Crawfuird

¹ She was the daughter of John, ſixth Earl of Caſſillis, and wife of Biſhop Burnet. She was reputed a wit, and a great patron of the Presbyterians. Her letters to John, Duke of Lauderdale, with whom ſhe intrigued, were published in 1828, 4to.

or any other, that werre actors in that Engadgement, in so farr they did fecond what James Grahame had done.

The procesſes of the women ſuſpect of witchcraft, ar delyvered to Mr. James Wedderburne to be revifed ; and he is ordeined to report.

Junij 27.—Mr. George Robertſone.—The Prefbyterie confidering Mr. George Robertſone his proceſſe againſt him ſufficiently proven, he is therfor ſuſpendit from preaching till ther be grypt evidence of his repentance.

July 4.—It is apointed, that all the brethren of the Prefbyterie ſhall meett at Falkland on Monday at 9 howres, and the Moderator is apointed to ſpeak to the King.

My Lord Crawfurd his buſſineſſe.—This day, my Lord Crawfuird appeirs before the Prefbyterie, and dothe acknowledge his wnfained ſorrow for being in the wnlawfull Engadgement, the advyſe of the Prefbyterie with concurrence in ſupplicating the Generall Affembly for reſtoring him to the priviledges of the Kirk. The Prefbyterie advyſeth his Lordſhip to goe to the Generall Affembly and ſupplikat them, and that they will with all ther power deall for his Lordſhip at ther hands.

Anent the procesſes of the women ſuſpect of witchcraft, the confideration of them is ſtill delayed, and ther procesſes ar given to the Clerk to be keiped.

Julij 18.—This day, the Prefbyterie mett wpon occaſioun of lettres come from the Generall Affembly, with 19 Seaſonable Warnings. As alſo, lettres werre receaved from our Commiſſioners, anent the ſpeedy ſending of the moneyes for the proportion of the regement of horſes to be ſent to Collonell Strauchen.

It is apointed, that no ſcandalous perſones, or diſaffected to the cauſe of God, be ſent out for the army ; and that none be ſent out without teſtimionalls from the Miniſter and Seſſioun, and that it be intimat publikly owt of pulpit, and privatly to Commiſſioners of pariſhes.

Auguſt 1.—It is apointed, that the publik faſt for Kirk, King, and Countrey, be intimat the nixt Sabbath to be on the Sabbath following, and the privat faſt to be on the Fryday before the publik faſt : And that rules be preſcryved by the Miniſter and Seſſioun, how families ſhowld behave themſelfſes that day of the privat faſt, and wher ther is a family wherof

none can reid, that then they shall concurre with another that can reid ; and that particular directiones be given by the minister on Weddensday preceeding.

August 15.—Mr. David Dalgleishe declares, that ther is a woman suspect of witchcraft, of whom he heard that she had communicat in the kirk of Sires. She is apointed to be summoned to appeir before the Presbyterie on Monday.

Mr. Alexander Balfour reports, that he, with Mr. Johne Makgill elder, had revised Mr. Andrew Lawthian his testimonials ; they doe allow him, and he is apointed, to use family worship in the Laird of Aitoun his family, and to catechise, pray, and reid.

It is apointed, that all the brethren of the Presbyterie shall meet at Logy this day eight dayes, and that their the minister shall preach himselfe wpon his ordinar text ; that all having interest may be present, and that the meitting be for setlinge a college.

At Logy, August 22.—*The Visitation of Logy.*—The whilk day, Mr. Johne Dury preached wpon his ordinar text, viz. the last ch. of the Revelation, v. 6 and 7.

The brethren being mett ; Mr. Johne Dury is removed ; the brethren ar enquiryed anent ther judgement of his doctrine ; they all professè that they ar confirmed in ther opinion, that the last chapters of the Revelation is nether meett for the minister nor the heirers his parochiners ; and that they find greyt weaknesse in him, and had mistaken the text, and wold hardly be convinced of his inabilities.

The elders being called, and first enquiryed, how they thoght of that dayes doctrine be at other tymes ? Answered, that they fand grytter circumspèctnesse in this then at other dyetts. Nixt being questioned, if ther had bein any impertinent challenges, ather from pulpit or in Sessioun, since the last day of meitting ? or if he had regrated his former omiffions or commissiounes ? Answered, that he was so far from regretting his former faults, that he challenged elders both in pulpit and Sessioun that they had wronged him.

All is delayed till the nixt day of meitting, and the heritors and elders ar apointed to be at the Presbyterie for farder advancement of the work.

This day, Mr. George Robertſone appeirs before the Prefbyterie, and heartily bliffeth the Lord for that cenſure that was put wpon him. He cravethe advyſe of the Prefbyterie, whither he ſhowld ſeik to be enlarged or not? The advyce is delayed till another fitter occaſion.

Auguſt 29.—This day, the Prefbyterie received a diſcharge for their proportion of the contribution of horſes, as followes :

Receaved from the Presbyterie of Cuper, two thousand one hundreth and fyfty merks Scotts, being their proportion of ther voluntar contribution for the Miniſters regement, according to the apointment of the Generall Aſſembly: As witnes my hand, at Edinburgh, 24 of Auguſt, 1650.

(*Sic ſubſcribitur*)

MR. JAMES HAMILTOUN.

September 5.—This day, ther came a lettre from the Committy of Fyiff, deſyring all miniſters to exhort all ſenſible perſones within ther paroches to be ready and well furniſhed; which they condiscended wnto.

All particulars ar laid aſyde, for the difficulty of tyme; they ar referred to a more fitting tyme.

October 24.—Ther came a lettre this day from the Commiſſioun of the Kirk, enjoyning every brother to mak enquiry in ther paroches, if ther be any that hes had any acceſſioun to that wicked courſe of that infurrection of the North, and to diſcover the degrees therof; or if they know any of the brether that hes had hand in it, to try all the brethren: being enquiryed, ther was nothing found. The brethren ar deſyred to goe to the parochiners that ar any wayes ſuſpect, and try.

October 31.—This day, having receaved a lettre from the Commiſſioun at Sterling, ſhowing the ſad and ſorrowfull eſtate of many of our priſoners in England; to witt, that about 500 of them ar dead, and theſe who ar alyve ar extreamly pinched with hunger, cold, and want of all comfortable ſupplies; and deſyring a contribution for them to be gathered in the kirks of this kingdome, and to ſend it to Sterling to the proveſt and dean of guild with all diligence: The Prefbyterie reſolved to condiscend to the ſaid deſyre, and mak publik declaration therof the nixt Sabboth, and the Sabaoth after receive it from ewery brother, as God ſhall mete their hearts.

Ther is received alſo another lettre deſyring to ſend ſome of the brether

and ruling elders of most experience to Sterling the 14 day of November, that they may concurre with ther help and counsell in sic a indigence, many being absent be reason of the tempestuous day.

The brethren reported, that they had found none that was privie to the King's escape, nor any accessory wnto the insurrection of the malignant party; except Mr. William Row, who declared, that my Lord Crawford denied that he knew any thing of the King's escape, but that he knew some that werre to supplicat the Commiffioun of the Kirk that they might be in a capacity to fight for the cause of God.

December 5.—This day, Mr. George Hamiltoun came from the Presbyterie of Sanctandros, and Mr. Patrik Wemyss from the Presbyterie of Kirkaldy, for correspondence, to know what course this Presbyterie wold tak with those that werre accessory to the Kinges escape, and who had any correspondence with those enemies, or had taken protection from them. It is apointed, that ewery brother shall try in their severall Sessiounes if ther be any, and to bring in their report in writt; and Mr. William Row is apointed to correspond with Sanctandros, and Mr. Johne Ramsay with Kirkaldy Presbyteries, for that effect.

December 12.—Ther was also a lettre received from the Commiffioun of the Kirk, declaring ther sence anent the Remonstrances of the gentlemen, officers, and ministers, attending the forces of the West. Ther was also ane Act received anent compliers with sectaries, or the sectarian army; and these who werre accessory to the late rebelloun in the North, be suspendit from the communion till the next Generall Assembly, to the which they ar referred.

This day, is produced my Lord Crawford his declaration, vnder his owne hand, the tenor wherof followes:

I doe declare, that I never gave his Majestie advyse to leave the Committy and goe North, nor knew of his going untill I had it from Dundy, and a command to attend him. I surely professe that I knew some werre resolved to petition for liberty to hazard themselves and all was deare to them, for defence of Religioun and the Covenant, of which number I was one, and am still redy and desyrous to doe so if it shall seem good. But for other designes praejudiciall to Judicatory or person I know none.

(*Sic subscribitur*)

CRAWFURD.

The Presbyterie haveing received the former declaration, vnder my Lord Crawfuird his owne hand, anent his supposed acceffion to the Kings withdrawing from his Cownfell, and the late rebellion of the North : And the said declaration being publickely red, and all the brethren being severally interrogat, If they knew any thing further of any acceffion to these finfull courfes then he himfelfe had declared ? Answered, they knew nothing. The Presbyterie, haveing taken the præmisses to their confideration, and being appointed by the Commiffioun of the Generall Affembly to give in the report anent the said mater, and perfounes acceffory therto within our bownds, at their first Seffion, doe therfor ordein a double of the said noble Lords declaration, together with the act, to be fent to the Commiffioun now fitting at Perth. And if any thing further fhall be made appeir to ws, either concerning the said noble Lord, or any other within our bownds heirafter, it fhall be lykewyfe reported with convenient diligence.

December 23.—The whilk day, a reference from the Commiffioun of the Kirk to the Presbyterie of Cupar, anent Sir Mungo Murray, for his acceffion to the late wnlawfull Engadgement againft the kingdome of Ingland, that they may conferre with him and try the evidence of his repentance, and report their opinion to the nixt meitting of the Commiffioun, being red ; and the said Sir Mungo, perfonally present, being heard, who acknowledged, that he was a Collonell of horfe in the said late wnlawfull Engadgement, for the which he was heartily sorrowfull ; declaring the fame to be finfull, wnlawfull, and deftructive to the Covenant and work of reformation ; and that he was forrie he had done any thing againft the declarationes of the Kirk ; and promyfed to walk more circumfpectly in tyme comeing : And the Presbyterie, haveing heard the report of the brethren appointed to conferre with him, doe conceive the said Sir Mungo to be ingenuous in his confeffion, and haveing exhorted him to walk in a cloffe communion with God, and to fyde with the people of God, testify the præmisses, fubfcrived by the Moderator and Clerk, by the ordinance of the Presbyterie.

January 16, 1651.—The whilk day, there is represented a reference from the Commiffioun of the Generall Affembly, anent the receiving of Sir Mungo Murray his repentance. Mr. David Dalglish and Mr. Walter Greig ar appointed to conferre with him anent the tryall of the evidence

of his repentance, they report they werre satisfied. He is therfor appointed to mak declaratioun of his repentance in the kirk of Cupar the nixt Lords day.

This day, Mr. Walter Greig informed the Presbyterie, that he had receiv- ed advertifement that ther had bein fuch do&trine preached by Mr. William Livingftoun in the Kinges hearing as requyred to be adverted, and that gave offence to fome. The Presbyterie apointed, that the faid Mr. William fhall goe to the Commiffioun of the Kirk, and their cleir himfelfe, as he himfelfe defyred.

January 23.—The whilk day, the Earle of Crawfuird being referred by the Commiffioun of the Generall Affembly to the Presbyterie of Cupar, for givinge fatisfaction for any acceffion he had to the Kings late efcape; The Presbyterie haveing pofed him anent his acceffion therwnto, or that rebellious in the North, he declared as before, that he was not wpon the counfell of the Kings going away, nor knew of it till he heard that the King was at Dundey, which occafioned his going thither. Lykewyfe, he acknowledged, that he knew feverall on the northfyde of Tay had a purpofe to fupplicat for liberty to a&t againft the enemy; but of their declaration or hostile a&ts which followed ther wpon, he knew nothing. And that he himfelfe intended, accompanied with fome of his owne freinds, (for his grytter securitie,) to have fupplicated the Committy of Eftates for the lyke liberty; but without any purpofe of joyneing with them in that declaration, or thefe their hostile a&ts. And lykewyfe he declared, that in his purpofe of fupplicating for the foirfaid liberty, he was very farr from the leaft thought of intending or indevoring any thing prejudiciall to the caufe of God, or any perfone, or judicatorie whatfomewer.

The Presbyterie takeing the fame to their confideration, and not finding it poffible to get further cleiring in it, and being defyrous to have the feandal of this acceffion to the foirfaid finfull courfes taken away, doe ordein his Lordfhip to mak a publik declaration of his repentance for his unfeafonable and feandalous going to Dundey, to attend or follow the Kings Majeftie when he had deferted the publik Counfell; as alfo, to mak a publik declaration of his repentance for his finfull and feandalous correfponding with any, or a&ting any thing himfelfe, (though intending nothing but to fupplicat, as faid is,) toward the drawing of his or their freinds together, to countenance or joyne in the lyke fupplication, not

haveing any lawfull calling or power so to doe. And this to be done in the kirk of Sires the next Lords day, or if peremptory commands necessitat him to goe any wher ells before that tyme, in that case ordeines him to doe it in the kirk of Cupar to morrow after fermon.

March 6.—This day, Mr. Patrik Scougall came from the Presbyterie of Sanctandros for correspondence anent the oppreffioun and profanity of the fouldiers, desyring that the Presbyterie wold send some of their number to the Committy of the shyre now sitting, to requyre them concurre with the Presbyteries in supplicatting his Majestie and Committy of Estates for redressing of the said infolencies; wherwnto they condiscended, and appointed that ewery brother shold try in their Sessiounes what they could find, and improve sufficiently.

March 10.—The whilk day, a meitting being appointed for giveing in the complaints against the foldiers; as also, for falling wpon overtures for provyding for ministers put from their charges by the enemy; their being present Mrs. David Dalgleshe, William Row, William Livingstoun, Johne Litlejohn, David Orme; elders, Carflogy and Nicol Maxwell, they appoint Mr. William Row and Mr. William Livingstoun to goe to the Committy of the shyre now sitting, to desyre them concurre in supplicatting his Majestie and Committy of Estates, for redressing these infolencies: They did returne, and reported they wold. Mr. David Reatt is appointed to correspond with Sanctandros Presbyterie for these effects.

March 20.—This day, Mr. Johne Makgill elder, represents to the Presbyterie, that it is reported a combat to be intendit betuixt Pittachup and Andrew Lesly. It is appointed that they shalbe summoned to appeir before the Presbyterie the next day; and for that effect, a lettre is ordeined to be wrettin to the minister of Forgon, to cause summond Major Lesly.

This day, there is a reference from the Commiffioun of the Kirk anent receiving of my Lord Canmoir his declaration of repentance for his accessioun to the Engadgement, and fornication. He is remitted bak to the Commiffioun.¹

¹ “1651, *Apryl 6.*—This day, the Vicount of Kenmuir his repentance was ressaute befor the pulpit on his knees; and gaue full satisfactioun, according to the order of the Generall Assembly, publictly read be the minister.”—*Kirk Sess. Rec. of Cupar.*

March 27.—This day, Johne Blyth, being summond, appeirs before the Presbyterie; being asked, if he did send a cartall to Major Andrew Lesly? denied it. He is summond, *apud acta*, to appeir before the Presbyterie this day 15 dayes. He is also defyred to abstain from any hostile way till that tyme; whilk he did promyse, and two brether, Mrs. Johne Makgill and Andrew Bennett ar appointed to deall with him for that effect.

Maij 1.—This day, Mr. Alexander Wedderburne came from the Presbyterie of Sanctandros for correspondence, shewing that the brether of that Presbyterie had liberally contribute for their distressed brether in Lawthian, put from ther charges, defyreing the Presbyterie to doe the lyke. Whilk the Presbyterie did heartily agree to, and ordeined, that ewery brother should bring in with him the nixt day the proportion condiscended wpon.

The reiding of the Warnings is delayed till the printed copies come to our hands. This day, the severall brethren being posed anent their judgement in relation to the publik resolutions of the Kirk, Mr. Johne Makgill professed himself scrupled with some thinges in the publik resolutions. The brethren, being desyrous to reason with him either to receive or hold out light, werre at last moved to delay the conference till after the ensewing meitting at Kirkaldy; so much the rather, becaus they had not received the printed cyps of the late Warning, with the which especialy he professed himselfe to be scrupled.

Maij 22.—This day, the Presbyterie received a lettre from the Commissioun anent a voluntar loan, or giveing of money for susteining the army; as also, they received a Warning from the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly. They ar appointed to be red in the severall kirks.

Junij 12.—The whilk day, William Birrell produced the decreett of the Commissariot against his father and mother, for not consenting to his mariage; as also, he produced the act of the Seffioun of Falkland, shewing his satisfaction for his fornication committed with Agnes Ramsay, she having satisfied also, as the act beares: wherupon the Presbyterie doth appoint Mr. William Livingstoun to marie the faids perfonas.

The whilk day, the Presbyterie haveing received an ordinance from the Commissioun of the Kirk, appointing our reverend brother Mr. David Reatt, minister at Darfy, to repair to the army, ther to attend my Lord

the Earle of Crawford his regement, for the space of three monethes nixt enfewing, doe, by these presents, second and confirme the said ordinance of the Commiffioun, and authorize our foirsaid brother to repair to the foirsaid regement, and ther to performe all ministeriall dewties to all and ewerie one, officiars and foldiers therof. Lykas, wee doe earnestly and heartily recommend our foirsaid brother wnto the kyndnesse and christian care of the foirsaid noble Lord, and remanent officiars and foldiers of the said regement, heartily exhorting them in the Lord, not only to yeeld wnto him hearty and cheerfull obedience in the discharge of his ministrie, but also, to sie that he be honestly provyded for in all thinges necessare for his outrek and comfortable abode among them; and that they be carefull tymously to provyde for his releiffe, that our foirsaid brother, haveing served among them the tyme appointed, may be safe and sound returned to his charge among us.

Julij 3.—This day, the Presbyterie received a letter from the Justice-deput anent James Cambell his bigamy, shewing that to his gryt regrate, according to the law of the kingdome, the punishment of bigamy is not capitall, but *pœna arbitraria*; wherwith the Presbyterie is heighly displeased. The said James is appointed still to be keiped in firmance.

August 28.—This day, the Presbyterie againe takeing to ther consideration the vyle and horrid murther committed by Johne Heburne of Athurstane, in killing James Laing, servant to the Laird of Rankilor Makgill younger, as is confessed by the said Laird of Athurstane, in his lettre writtin to the Presbyterie; the Presbyterie, after due and grave deliberation anent the said mater; and considering the many weighty aggravateing circumstances of that murther, doe, for the atrocity of that fact, ordeine the said Johne Heburne of Athurstane to be summarlie excommunicatt by Mr. Alexander Balfour in the kirk of Ebdy, in the whilk parish the said murther was committed, as the said Laird of Athurstane was travaileing by the way, wpon the nixt Lords day, being the 31 of Agust.

Logy, Maij 6, 1652.—[Mr. Henry Pitcairne admitted minister there.]

October 21.—The whilk day, no exercise, in respect the Inglishes did impeded these that werre to exercise.

November 16.—The whilk day, Mr. Andrew Anderfon represents to the

Presbyterie the fadd condition of his schoole, his scholers going abroad on the Saboth; desyres, therfor, advise what he should do in that case. He is ordeined, whill they want preaching in the kirk, that he shall catechise his scholers on the Saboth, instructing them in the knowledge of God.

Apryl 21, 1653.—Commissions Letter.—This day the lettre of the Commissioun of the Generall Assemblie, of the daitt Feb. 21, 1653, was red; and as concerning that part of it which dothe desyre that all and ewery one of our number who find our parts and aëtionis misrepresented in the book intituled, *The Nullity of the Generall Assembly at Sanctandros and Dundy*, clear therselfes, and returne a clear narration of ther cariage of the truthe of the particulars in wrett with the first convenience, or at the furthest to the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly, at the nixt meitting. The Presbyterie delays till this day 15 dayes, ordeining the brether to advyse till the said day anent the answere.

The brethren present declared, that they had keiped the fast, and red the Causes which werre brought to them in the lettre. Only Mr. Johne Makgill younger declared, he had keiped the fast, but did not reid the Causes, because (as he conceived them) they ar generall, ambiguous, and defective. Lykewyse Mr. William Row declared, he had keiped the fast wpon the authority of the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly, and wpon these Causes (as he conceived them); but did not reid the paper conteineing these causes, because of some generall and ambiguous expreffions.

Monemell, Maij 12.—The whilk day, the a& was presented. It was asked the brether anent the A& of the Generall Assembly at Sanctandros and Dundy, of the daitt at Dundy Julij 31, 1651, *Ses. 19, antemeridie*, appointing Expectants to declare themselfes.

The question being stated, Whither presentlie this A& should be put in execution or not? It was caried by one voice only, not. Therfor the brether of the Presbytery thereafter concluded by voiceing, that it should be referred to the determination of the Synod.

Mr. Laurence Oliphant desyres, that his meaneing anent his voiceing be marked, that he voiced it not to be putt in execution presentlie, was in respect it should be referred to the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly, and noe otherwyse. Mr. Johne Makgill elder, desyred that his voice be

noted that same way. Mr. Johne Makgill younger, defyred his proteſtation againſt that acts being made uſe of as a rule wherby the Preſbyterie ſhould walk; and craved a double of the act of the Generall Aſſembly, that he might give in his reaſones. Mr. George Thomſon, Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. William Row, Mr. William Bethun elder, requyred the ſame.

Mr. Walter Greig profeſſed, that he caried ſo much reſpect to, and expected ſo much charity from the Provinciall, as he did humbly intreat, that ther wiſdomes might be pleaſed not to urge the execution of that act for the preſent, (in reſpect of the ſadd eſtate of the tymes,) wherwith he cannot in conſcience goe along, for the reaſones that he ſhall ſhew in tyme and place convenient.

The anſwer of the lettre of the Commiſſioun of the Generall Aſſembly is drawn up, red before the Preſbyterie, and appointed to be ſubſcryved, and inferd in the Minutts; the tenor therof followes.

RIGHT REVEREND,

HAVEING taken to our ſerious thoughts your lettre directed to ws at your laſt meitting, and finding, beſyde many other dowtes relateing to the publik gud of the Kirk, theirin to ws recommended, the performance wherof wee reſolve, in the Lords ſtrength, to endeavour, that more particularly wee ar deſyred to cleir ourſelfes of what wee find misrepresented, as concerning our parts and actions, in that book entituled, “The Nullity of the pretended Aſſembly at Sanctandros and Dundy;” and to returne to you a cleir narration of our cariage, and of the truth of particulars in our electioun of Commiſſioners of that venerable Aſſembly, wee ſhall ſay no further but this, that our electioun was free and wnanimous, without either proteſtation or diſſent to the contrair. And as for that lettre of the Commiſſioun 1650, ſo much talked of, be pleaſed to know, that it was ſo farr from haveing any influence wpon ws in the makeing of that electioun, that it came not to our hands till fourteen dayes thereafter. Thus, humbly deſyreing the Lord to direct yow in his work, and wiſhing yow to endeavour to keip the unity of the Spiritt in the band of peace, We ar

Your loveing Brethren in Chryſt,

Cupar, May 19, 1653.

THE PRESBYTERIE OF CUPAR.

(Directed thus)

To the Moderator and remanent Members of the Commiſſioun of the Generall Aſſembly, 1652.

Mr. Johne Makgill younger declared, that he was not cleir to vote in

that lettre, being wnfatiffied with fome things that was in the Commiffiouns letter. Mr. James Wedderburne declared, that he did adhere to the protestation againft the Affembly; therfore wold not vote to the lettre.

Julij 7.—The whilk day, the Laird of Collerny, with Mr. William Bethune, gave in ane add to the reafones given in formerly againft Mr. William Cochran his electioun to be minifter at Creich, as followes: Wee add this evidence of Mr. William Cochran his imprudencie and wncharitablenesse (to fay no worfe), as was reported wnto ws, that, on a day in Kirkaldy, feing Mr. Samuel Rutherford paffing by him, he said, If ther be a debatched knave in Scotland ther is one; *disortum vultum sequitur disortia morum*. For cleiring of this yee may enquire Mr. Anthony Murray, student of divinity, Mr. Johne Malcom, scholmaster in Kirkaldy, Johne Buchan doctör, and Johne Fuirder ther. Being posed anent that particular relating to Mr. Samuel Rutherford, denied it simpliciter.

August 11.—The whilk day, fome brether waited for a full meitteing of the Presbyterie, they werre commanded to disperse by some Inglishe, (haveing, as they said, ane ordor for that effect;) againft which encroachment wpon the right and priviledge of Presbyteries, the brethren present, to witt, Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. David Orme, Mr. Johne Alexander, Mr. William Row, Mr. Johne Makgill younger, and Mr. Henry Pitcairne, and the Laird of Collerny, ruleing elder, did protest; and that, notwithstanding, it might be free for ws to meitt in our Presbyteries for those thinges that concerne the glory of God, and the good of those people fowles within our bounds, according to the word of God, and the aëts of the Generall Assemblie.

October 6.—The whilk day, Mr. James Martin defyred advyce of the Presbyterie anent Thomas Brown and Isobel Gilmour in his paroche, married by Mr. Alexander Cornwell, a depofed minifter, and alledged excommunicat, whose testimoniall for the fairsaid mariage he produced, What should be done with them for the contempt of the ordor of our Kirk, and the baptifeing of ther children begotten in fornication? The Presbyterie appointed ther children to be baptised, they finding caution to fatiffy the Kirk in whatsoever censure shalbe enjoyned; and resolves to advyse of ther censure afterward.

Monemell, December 29.—The whilk day, Mr. Johne Alexander craveth advyce anent the baptifeing of a chyld whose parents ar lying vnder censure for ignorance. The Presbyterie advyseth the minister to deal with the parents to mak them sensible, and then baptize ther barne.

February 2, 1654.—Ther was this day a proceffe of the Sessioun of Newburgh, anent Kathrin Key being scandalized for witchcraft; and because of the ministers sicknesse who had it to revise, it being sent againe to the Presbyterie, it is given to Mr. James Wedderburne to revise.

Monemell, Junij 1.—Anent Johne Reids mater concerning privat Communion, it is delayed till the nixt day.

Junij 24.—Thomas Hey being called, compeirs, who, being sworne, deponed, that he heard Margaret Gilmour say no more, but that Johne Reid gave them a sopp watter round about, with many good words to it.

Johne Elder deponed, that he heard Margaret Gilmour say, that Johne Reid gave a drink of water and a bitt bread.

Christian Thomfon, being sworne, deponed, that Johne Reid did not give any bread, but fought a bliffeing to the water, but asked how Jean Balcankquall did.

September 7.—Anent David Wentoun, adulterer, in the parish of Newburgh, haveing fitten in the place of repentance a yeir, and not received because of his ignorance and insensibleneffe of his guiltineffe and falleing in fornication; the mater of his excommunication is referred to the Provinciall for advyse.

Monemell, October 12.—This day, the act of the Provinciall anent reformation of Sessiouns, elders, and families, for advancing the work of God, was red. And it is appointed, that the Presbyterie shall meitt at Monemell on Twesday the 17 of this instant, and to spend the whole day in conference, praying and fasting, as they shall think expedient.

October 19.—The Presbyterie being sadly weghted with the report of the continwance, and exorbitant and unnecessarily numerous confluences of people at pennie brydles, and of inexpedient and wnlawfull pypeing and dancing at the same, so scandalous and sinfull in this tyme of our Churches lamentable conditioun; and being apprehensive that ministers and Kirk Sessiouns have not bein so vigilant and active (as neid werre),

for repressing of these disorders, doe therfor most seriously recommend to ministers and Kirk Sessions to repress the same.

December 14.—Mr. Walter Greig preached at Cupar, and the Presbyterie and parish being frequently mett, Mr. John Makgill was solemnlie admitted to the ministrie in that place according to order.

March 22, 1655.—This day, Lievetennent Crofinan, ane Englishman, appeared before the Presbyterie, and did raise the same, wherupon Mr. John Makgill, in name of adherers, did protest, and all present did adher.

April 12.—Mr. John Makgill younger represented to the Presbyterie that protestation entered March 22, the tenor wherof followes :

WHILL the Presbyterie being mett at the ordinary tyme, and in the ordinary place, was consulting about revising the Acts of the last half yeir, that the register might be in readinesse against the Provinciaill Assemblie, Lievetennent Crosman (ane Englishman) told us that the meeting of the Provinciaill was forbidden, and furthwith went away, and within ane hour after came bak againe, and commanded the Presbyteriall meeting to ryse and disperse till further order ; which the Brethren resolved to obey. But withall, Mr. John Makgill protested against the encroachment made wpon the liberties of our Kirk Judicatories, which hold of Jesus Chryst himselfe, and ar not subordinate to any civile or military power whatsoever. And that notwithstanding it may be frie to us to meett in our respective judicatories in a peaceable maner about the effairs of the Church of Chryst, within the bownds of our charge, as necessity requyres, when and wher the Lord in his good providence should give us opportunity and a call. And this wee doe not out of humourousnesse or turbulencie of spirit ; but that wee may approve our selfes to God in our station, by asserting of, and beareing testimony unto the government, liberties, and privileges of the Church of Jesus Chryst, and judicatories therof, (according to the word of God, and the bonds of our sacred and solemne Covenant), which to us ar so pretious that wee darr not be consenting unto, nor silent at any thing which directly, or by consequence, may be prejudiciall unto them.

Mr. JAMES WEDDERBURNE,
WILLIAM ROW, adherers.

May 3.—Mr. David Orme reports, that he, with Mr. Alexander Balfour, had delt with Katharin Key, and found hir sensible of hir guiltinesse of cursing hir minister. The minister is appointed to intimat to the parish if any had any thing concerning witchcraft to object, that they come to the Session, and give it in ; and if nothing be found of that kynd, he shall declare hir repentance in the publick place of repentance, for cursing.

A reference from the Session of Falkland to the Presbyterie was pre-

presented, craveing ther advyce, What should be done with a man that strikes his wyffe, and will not forbear it? The Presbyterie finding the buffinesse of common concernement, resolves to crave advyce of other Presbyteries.

Stramiglo, May 24.—Two lettres werre presented that day to the Presbyterie, one from the Synod of Lawthian, another from the Provest and Bailies of Edinburgh, desyreing a contribution for the help of such as had ther howses brunt ther. The Presbyterie resolves to represent to the severall Sessiouns to doe accordingly. And delyvered the lettres to Mr. David Fermer, to transmitt them to the Presbyterie of Dumfermling.

Junij 7.—The whilk day, Mr. Patrik Peacock being requyred to declare himselfe, according to the act, declares as followes :

BEING requyred to declare myselfe, according to the Act of the Assemblie at Edinburgh, I doe declare, that it is my desyre that everie one should follow peace, and study the laying by all debates that hinders the prospering of the Lordis work in this Kirk, and that it is my purpose, in the Lordis strenth, to doe the same. But finding that I cannot declare my selfe according to that Act, wnesse I would engadge in the debates now in hand, which I suppose is not the way to peace, and therfor I can not give satisfacioun as is requyred according to that Act as it stands *in terminis*.

The Presbyterie haveing put Mr. Patrik Peacok to declare his judgement according to the act of the Assemblie at Edinburch, and received his answer ; Mr. Johne Makgill desyred the Presbyterie to consider, Whither a young man, resolving to be peaceable, and forbearing to engadge in debates in a tyme when the Church is so fadly rent and divided, and wisheing debates that hinder the prosperitie of the work of God in the Church werre layd asyde, without declareing his judgement *pro* or *contra* in matters contraverted, whither, I say, that does not evidence such a peaceable disposition and purpose as dothe suite the duty of young men in a divided and rent Church. And without prejudice to his last protestation, desyres the Presbyteries sense therof.

It being voiced, whither, first, Mr. Patrik his answer, or this motion should be considered. It was concluded, that wee should first consider Mr. Patrik his answer.

It being voiced, whither the paper given in by Mr. Patrik be a declaration satisfactory? It was concluded, that it was not satisfactory.

Mr. Johne Makgill, Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. Walter Greig, Mr. George Thomefon, minifters, with Collerny, Lafiftoun, Henry Corby, elders, declared they could not voice, but defyred to adher to the diflent and proteftation.

Mr. William Livingftoun and Mr. James Martin, ar appointed to deall with Mr. Patrik for informeing him anent the equitie of the A&t of the Affemblie concerneing young mens entrie, and to meet at Newburgh on Monday for that effect, and to report.

The motione proponed be Mr. Johne Makgill, is appointed to be further confidered untill the nixt dāy, and that then ane answer fhall be given to it.

Junij 21.—This day, the brethren appointed to deall with Mr. Patrik Peacok, for informeing him anent the equitie of the A&t, reported that they had conferred with him, according to the appointment of the Prefbyterie, and endeavoured to fatiffie him, but prevailed not.

The Prefbyterie, after deliberation upon the queftion proponed by Mr. Johne Makgill, doe put the matter to a vote, and it was caried equally, the one half of the Prefbyterie voteing for the affirmative, and the other half for the negative, (the Moderator not voiceing.) The Prefbyterie, takeing the foirfaid particular to confideration, thought fitting to referre the famine to the Provinciaall Affemblie enfewing.

Julij 12.—Mr. Patrik Peacok being enquired, If he had fubferyved the Proteftation againft the late Affemblie of the Church? Declared, that he had not fubferyved the Proteftation. As alfo, being requyred to promyfe and give affurance, that he fhall abftaine from holding up debates and contraverfies about matter of difference in this Church fince the Affemblie 1650, in preacheing, wretting, or otherwyfe: The faid Mr. Patrik did promyfe and give affurance, that he fhould abftaine from holding up debates and contraverfies about matters of difference in this Church, fince the Affemblie [16]50, in preacheing, writting, or otherwyfe. Upon this ground Mr. Patrik was appointed to add as the firft part of his tryells.

Mr. Johne Makgill defyres that it might be remembred, that he adhered to his fenfe of the overture given in to the Synod, being of nothing more defyrous then young mens frie entrie to the miniftrie, and peaceable

behaviour in reference to contraverfies when they ar in the miniftrie. And this being alwayes fein to, I fhould be fatiffied not to owne any pro-
teftation made formerly againft (as he conceived) fome intended incroach-
ings therupon.

December 27.—This day, Mr. Johne Rig prefented a lettre from my Lord Burghley, craveing the advyce of the Prefbyterie, if any might be buried within his Ifle. The Prefbyterie judges that ther can be no buriall ther, it being a publik place of hearing the Word.

Februar 7, 1656.—This day, ane delegat from the Inglish Commiffioners defyred to have a notte of all the fhipends which had wacked fince the yeir 1651. The Prefbyterie, being very unfrequent, and the ordinary Moderator abfent, and the Clerk declareing that the book was not filled up, and the minutts not all at hand, entreated the gentlemans patience whill ther book be filled up. The Clerk is appointed to fill it up with all convenient diligence.

Februar 21.—It is voiced, whither the Prefbyterie fhould declare againft the erecting anew againe any Commiffioun which had its authority from the Generall Affemblie 1650? The Prefbyterie appoints a declaration to be drawne up by Mr. David Orme, Mr. Alexander Balfour, and Mr. William Livingftoun.

This day, Nicolas Merfhall and Jean Kede, who had bein married by Mr. Alexander Cornwell, a depofed excommunicat minifter, contrair to the ordor of our Kirk, ar appointed by the Prefbyterie, for removeing of the feandall, to fitt before the pulpitt of Falkland all the tyme of divine fervice one dyett, and thereafter declare ther repentance for that ther unlawfull procedor; and that Mr. William Livingftoun, haveing layd out ther fault to the Congregation, doe caufe them, by joyneing of ther hands, engage themfelffes by the mariage oath, the one to the other, for performance of the mariage duties dureing the reft of ther lyfetye heirafter.

Martij 6.—Mr. William Livingftoun craveth advyfe, What cenfure fhallbe inflicted upon thefe that ftrike ther wyffes? It is referred to the Provinciall, being of common concernement.

The Declaration againft the erecting of that Commiffioun anew, haveing its ground from the Generall Affemblie 1650, the draught wherof was red

before the Presbyterie and approven. But Mr. Walter Greig, Johne Makgill, William Row, James Wedderburne, werre not cleir; and Mr. Johne Makgill defyred his diffent to be marked from that draught, and promyfed to give in his reafones in due tyme.

The tenor of the foirlaid Declaration followis:

THE Presbyterie being certainly informed, that some Ministers and vthers in this Kirk have of late erected a Committie, with publiet authoritie above and over all the Congregationes, Presbyteries, and Synods, of the Kirk in this land, which is by the said Ministers pretended to be the Committie for publiet effairs, appointed and authorized by the Generall Assembly holden at Edinburgh 1650; and considering that, besides that, the Ministers and others afoirsaid have not the originall Commission granted to that Committie by the said Assemblie, nor to our knowledge so much as any authentick double therof; and consequently knoweth neither the persons of whom that Committie was constitute, nor what matters werre committed unto them, nor what power was granted to them; considering, wee say, besides this, that all Commissions granted be the said Assemblie 1650, did expyre and become void for afterward, at the meitteing and sitting of the following Generall Assemblie at Sanctandros, in the year 1651; and particularly, that the Commission granted to the foirsaid Committie for publiet affairs was by the Moderator, and greater part of the members therof, delyvered and rendered up to that followeing Generall Assemblie at Sanctandros:—The Presbyterie dothe find, and heirby declares, that the erecting of such a Committie with publiet authoritie, (which no Kirk judicatour inferior to Generall Assemblies can doe, let be privat men, such as these Ministers, and others that have joyned with them ar,) to be a most presumptuous usurpation over the Church of God in this land, and the judicatours therof, overturneing the established governement of the Kirk, setting up theirin, and above the judicatours therof, a reall prelaticall power, the said pretended Committie not being accountable to any of the present judicatours of this Kirk, and being to continew (aaccording to the intention of the erectors therof) wntill a new Generall Assemblie, which the said pretended Committie (should it be permitted) shall have power to hinder and imped, so long as they shall think expedient, Who, therfor, may prorogat and propogat their usurped authoritie so long as they will; and directly and positively condemning these two late Generall Assemblies at Sanctandros and Dundie 1651, and Edinburgh 1652, as wnlawfull, and no Generall Assembly, tending all to the undoing of this whole Kirk by a woefull and remedillesse schisme, and contrare to our Nationall Covenant, and to the Solemne League and Covenant. And therfor the Presbyterie, finding themselfes bound by the commandement of Jesus Chryst, the covenant and oath of God, to endeavour in ther station, and according to ther calling, the preservation of religion as it is by the mercie of God established amongst us, in doctrine, worship, governement, and disciplin, and to oppose, in so farr as in them lyeth, everie course and designe tending to the overturneing of the same in any [way], whither in whole or in part, doe, in the name of Jesus Chryst, obtest, and by that authoritie

wherwith the Lord hes endewed them within his house, charge and requyre all Ministers within ther bounds, that none of them presume to sitt in or concurre with the afoirsaid pretended Committie, or any Committie whatsoever, erected without the authoritie of the present established judicatours of the Kirk ; or to doe any thing, by vertue of any act which shall happen to be made or emitted by the afoirsaid pretended Committie or Committies, as they wilbe answerable to Jesus Chryst, and to the Presbyterie and superior judicatours of this Kirk. Lykeas in the same manner, they doe obtest and charge all professors within ther bounds, of whatsoever rank and condition, that none of them doe acknowledge the said pretended Committie or Committies, or give obedience to any of ther citations, acts, or constitutiones : But, on the contrare, that, according to ther severall stations, and as God shall call them and give occasion, that they doe testify ther disallowance of ther usurpation ; as they would not be found accessory to such disorderly courses, and guilty of the miseries and confusions that therby may come wpon this Kirk, and would not incurre the censure of the Kirk due to such offences. And, finally, ordeines that whatsoever student of divinitie shall desyre to enter upon ther tryells for the exerceyse of ther gifts, and whatsoever expectants ar to enter upon tryells in relation to a calling to the ministrie within this Presbyterie, before they be admitted, or entered upon ther tryells, they be requyred to declare ther disallowance of the said pretended Committie, and all other Committies of that kynd that shall happen to be erected in that manner ; and to promyse that they shall never owne them as lawfull Committies or Judicatur of this Kirk, and if they refuse to doe the same, that they be debarred from being admitted upon ther tryells.

Cults, Maij 1.—[Mr. George Difhentoun admitted minifter of Cults.]

Darfy, Maij 22.—The Moderator propond the questtion to the brethren and elders of the Presbyterie severally, Whither or not they knew in the bounds of this Presbyterie any minifters or elders that ar probably presumde to be insufficent or scandalous ; and that, as they would be answerable to ther Lord and Mafter, they may delate the same, to the end, that if any such be given up, the Presbyterie may appoint visitationes for tryell and cenfureing the same, according to the order preseryved in the act of the late Synod, concerneing visitationes.

Mr. Johne Makgill younger, being first in order, and being interrogat, gave in his anfwere in paper, as followes :—Mr. Johne Makgill being interrogat by the Moderator, If he knew any of his brethren insufficent or scandalous, etc. in ther ministrie and conversation, and obtested to declare what he knew, as he wold be answerable to his Lord and Mafter ; the said Mr. Johne defyred the Presbyteries resolution first, before he could anfwere to ther questtion and demand, whither he might frielie delate

what he heard concerneing any of his brethren without being looked upon as rash, uncharitable, etc. or held obleiged to prove, or give in witness to prove delateing what he had heard.

The Presbyterie, haveing refused to give Mr. Johne Makgill ane answer to his questione, the said Mr. Johne declared, that he could not otherwayes answer to the Presbyteries questione and demand, and therfor behooved to withdraw himselfe from the Presbyterie acting any thing in that buffinesse, not being desyrous or cleir to be involved in any conclusion that they should come to by this maner of procedor.

The Presbyterie, haveing considered the said questione, and withall remembring that he had propound it before to the Synod, and had not bein cleired, for any thing they find in the Synod book, did refuse to solve his questione; wheirupon the said Mr Johne was interrogat againe, and desyred to answer to the first and maine questione; wherunto he gave in, by way of answer, the paper, and desyred ane extract, which was appointed to be given him.

Many of the rest of the brethren answered (being severally interrogat), that they knew none of ther brethren to be under probable presumptiones of insufficiencie or scandell; and others werre uncleir for the present.

Sires, Julij 17.—This a day, a reference from the Sessiou of Cupar is presented to the Presbyterie, craveing advyce what shalbe done with those women that ar dipped. The minister is appointed, with two or three elders, to conferre with them, and to report the nixt day. Correspondents ar appointed to be sent to neighbouring Presbyteries, Mr. William Row to San&andros, and Mr. George Dishentoun to Kirkaldy, for ther advyce.

Julij 21.—This day, the Presbyterie mett at Cupar, by occasioun of a lettre sent from the Moderator of the Synod to our Moderator, desyreing two of our number to be authorised to attend a meitteing of correspondents from the severall Presbyteries of this province, at Cupar on Thurefday nixt, for nominateing of two to goe from this province to attend the meitteing of some ministers (two from everie province) at Edinburgh, the first Weddenfday of August nixt, anent the good of Religioun against the encroachment of Poperie, which is judged fitt, yea necessary, by the ministers of Edinburgh to be keiped. The brethren falling upon the buffinesse, but,

after some debate and conference upon the matter, finding themselves not clear, resolved and ordeined, that the Presbyterie should meett on Thurefday nixt, that they may have information from correspondents of other Presbyteries for ther cleireing, before they proceed in it. And, because of loseing much tyme by two dayes meetteing in one week, adjournes the nixt meitting of our Presbyterie after Thurefday till that day 15 dayes, being the 7 of August; ordeineing the brethren formerly appointed to exercise and add that day.

Julij 24.—This day, the Presbyterie mett for chuseing two brether, (as was formerly appointed,) the brether, not being clear the former day, did adjourne it to this day; absents Mr. Alexander Balfour, Mr. George Thomeson, James Wedderburne.

The questione being stated thus, Whither the end of our chuseing correspondents shalbe in these termes, To meett at Edinburgh, the first Wednesday of August nixt, with the bretheren commissionat from the rest of the province, to consult for the good of religion against the encroachment of Poperie? It was concluded, affirmative. The bretheren did chuse Mr. David Orme and Mr. Alexander Balfour to meett with the correspondents of other Presbyteries of Fyiff presently in this place, for the end above exprest. From which whole conclusion, Mr. Walter Greig, Mr. Johne Makgill dissented, being not clear.

October 23.—*Anabaptists.*—Anent the Anabaptists in the parochie of Cupar, in regard ther was ane ordinance from the Synod relateing to them, and the Synod book was not present, the buffinesse was delayed till afterward.

November 20.—*Anabaptists.*—The Presbyterie haveing considered the late act of the Synod of Fyiffe concerning the Anabaptist women within the parish of Cupar, have thoght meett, in obedience therto, to cite them to appear before them. And ordeines the kirk officer of the parish of Cupar to summond them, to wit, Elspet, Isobel, and Cristian Millers, to appear before the Presbyterie the nixt day of meitteing, being the 4 of December ensewing.

January 1, 1657.—*Anabaptists, Elspet, Isobel, Christian Millers.*—This day, Elspet, Isobel, and Cristian Millers, appeares before the Presbyterie. The Moderator questioned them, If they did owne ther baptisme in ther in-

fancie? Answeres, that they did not owne it. 2. They mantained, that Chryft died for all intentionally. 3. That the fowle sleeps with the body till the refurrection. 4. That Saints and true believers may fall away from true faveing grace. 5. That the decree of election is not absolute. They grant that the fpirit of God is irrefiftable: which tennets werre contradi&torie. They are appointed to be conferred with by Mr. Johne Makgill and George Thomefon.

January 15.—The Prefbyterie finding that the finne of druckenefle ftill abounds, and that fome dolefull accidents falls out upon the occafiones thereafter, and yet thefe efcape cenfure who ar acceffory to the druckenefle occafione fuch accidents, It is appointed heirby, that thefe who have beene acceffory to any druckenefle of that kynd be tryed, and be, according to the degree of that occafion, cenfured.

February 26.—William Thomefon, Ingliſhman, appeares before the Prefbyterie, and confeſſed that he had bein ane Anabaptiſt formerly, dothe now diſclaime the ſaid Anabaptiſme, and deſyred his chyld be baptiſed. The Prefbyterie reſolves to remitt him to the Miniſter and Seſſioun of Cuper to be delt with; and in the mean tyme his child is not to be baptiſed till he be ſenſible of his error.

Martij 12.—A cace of conſcience wes proponed to the Prefbyterie, by Mr. William Livingſtoun, Whither any created power might lawfullie by judiciall ſentence appoint the ſonne to ſcourage his mother, and ſie the ſame put in execution, yea or nay? The Prefbyterie answered, negative; profeſſing that the affirmative was bothe horride and contrare to the law of God and Nature.

Anabaptiſts.—Anent the Anabaptiſts women, the Prefbyterie thinks [fitt] to ſummond them to appeare before the Prefbyterie, (according to the appointment of the Provinciall,) that report may be given to the Synod. The other Anabaptiſt, William Thomefon, is delayed till Mr. Johne Makgill and Mr. William Row give in ther report.

Anent women witneſſes, Whither they being Elders wyffes may be witneſſes?

Junij 4.—*Anabaptiſts.*—The Anabaptiſts ar called upon *pro 3^{to}*. They ar declared contumacious. They ar appointed to be ſummond out of pulpit

publickly, and a lettre is to be wrettin to the Minister, wher two of them reside; the thrid, staving in towne, is to be publickly summond out of pulpit.

Junij 18.—This day, Commissioners from the towne of Sanctandros presented ther desyre, that the contribution for ther peir should be accelerated in respect of the season of the yeir, they being so necessitat for the tyme. And in the meantyme, copies ar delyvered to everie minister to be presented to ther Seffiounes to be gathered as they think expedient.

Mr. Johne Makgill represented to the Presbyterie, that he had conferred with Cristian Miller, on of the Anabaptist women, and had not cited hir, (according to the former dayes appointment,) out of pulpit, because he hath hope that she shalbe convinced of hir error; and therfor he did delay the same till he sie what may be done. Mr. George Thomeson is appointed still to concurr with him.

Julij 16.—*Anabaptists.*—Cristian Miller, Anabaptist, being delt with by the two brether, Mr. Johne Makgill and Mr. George Thomeson, they report that she is still obstinat, and vilipends privat citationes. She is appointed to be summond publickly out of pulpitt.

The questione being propound, Whither Mr. William Tullideff should be now or never posed anent his declaration? It caried that he should never be posed. He is appointed to be admitted to the ministrie this day 15 dayes. Mr. Alexander Balfour is appointed to intimat on the Saboth come eight dayes, and Mr. William Livingstoun to celebrate the action.

Denbug, the penult of Julij.—[Mr. William Tullideff admitted minister at Denbug.]

Sept. 3.—The Presbyterie takeing to ther consideration the sad evidences of the Lords displeasure upon the land, by the unseasonable raine, thinks fitt to change ther texts, for inbeareing this said stroke upon the people.

Monemell, September 10.—The whilk day, the Presbyterie mett at Monemell, (in obedience to the act of the Synod to the Presbyterie, and the act of the Presbyterie this day 15 dayes,) Mrs. David Raitt, William Row, Johnne Rig, Walter Greig, George Thomeson, James Wedderburne.

The names of the elders ar given in to the Presbyterie. The elders present, Alexander Balfour, David Bontaveron, Johne Mores, Robert Low, Alexander Low. They all being interrogat, if they werre the reporters,

that Mr. David Orme was avocat from his calling by laboureing of land without the parish? They all denied.

Alexander Balfour being particularly enquired, if ther minister was avocat from his calling, or omitted any point therof as preacheing, catechiseing, or visiteing, etc. Answered, that he never knew him omitt any duty of his calling.

Johne Mores being called, declared, that he never knew ther minister to neglect any point of his calling by his laboureing of land.

David Bontaveron being questioned, answered, that he could not misse ther minister from his calling by laboureing of land without the parish.

Robert Low being enquired as before, answered, that he never knew his minister abstracted (by laboring of land) from the duties of his calling, but was als dutifull and painfull as any minister whatsoever.

Alexander Low, being enquired as before, answered, he knew not any abstraction from his calling by laboureing of land; but wished they werre als diligent in attendance as he was to doe his'duety.

These fyve elders all being called before the Presbyterie. The Presbyterie [confidering] that this will not be taken for a sufficient inquirie by the Synod, did therfor appoint another dyet, that the absent elders may be present.

September 24.—The Laird of Rankilor-Nether appeares before the Presbyterie; being enquired, if ther minister, Mr. David Orme, was avocat from his calling by laboureing of land? Answered, that he desyres his minister be exhorted to be more painfull in visiteing and catechiseing; and he thought that he might be more painfull if he werre not so diverted; and that he would set his land, if so be it should be to his prejudice.

The Laird of Mount appeared, and being interrogat, if his minister was avocat from his calling by laboureing of land? Answered, that he knew him not avocat.

Robert Henderfone appeares, and declares, that it did not avocat him. David Ballingall appeares, and declares that it did not avocat the minister. Florence Johnstoun declares, that he knew him not to be avocat.

The whole heritors and elders being heard, and the minister himselffe being interrogat, the Presbyterie found, that he had land in his owne

hand in Newburgh; and that he was a conjunct tutor and curator for two pupills in the parish of Collesfy, his sisters children, who had nether father nor mother, and that he had furnished some cornes for plenishing ther rowme. The Presbyterie doe advyse him to set that land, if it should be to his prejudice, and to acquite himselfe of those burdines of that tutory and curatory to the other ungle by the father fyde. And withall, because they heare he is sometymes avocat by attending the civile judicatories anent his stipend, which is ill payed by some, doe therfor appoint a lettre to be wrettin to the heritors not to be a cause of avocation to him by ther deficiencie.

Kettle, October 29.—The minister and elders ar exhorted to rebuikie tipling and long sitting at drink; and that they delate swearers and cursers, and crub pipeing and dancing.

Apryl 22, 1658.—*Anabaptist.*—Cristian Miller, in the parish of Cupar, being before declared contumax to the discipline of the Kirk of Scotland, the minister is appointed to goe on in the first prayer, before the sentence of excommunication.

Maij 5.—Mr. George Thomefon represented to the Presbyterie, that the parish of Kilmany had no maintenance for a schole. The Presbyterie resolves to tak the most speedie course for furthering the buffinesse.

Maij 20.—Mr. Johne Makgill reported, that he had prayed the 2d tyme before excommunication. His diligence is approven. As also, he shew that she, Cristian Miller, Anabaptist, had sent some privat persones, desyreing him to conferre with hir, which he had condiscended to doe before two elders; but being informed of some probabilities that it was but a shift to delay tyme, he had withall desyred them to tell hir that he could not break off the course of the proceffe of excommunication without the Presbyterie; wishing her to be serious and ingenuous in the demanded conference. But that since that he heard nothing more from her. The Presbyterie approveth what he hath done, and appoints him to pray for her in publicke the 3d tyme before the pronounciation of the sentence.

Julij.—*Anabaptists.*—The Presbyterie haveing considered the whole proceffe concerning Cristian Miller, who hath rejected and made defection from the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government of the Kirk

of Scotland, and hath not onely turned unto the Anabaptificall way, but also hath therewith drunk in all the Arminian errors; and that notwithstanding of the minister and Kirk Sessioun of Cuper ther tender dealling in much long suffering, and the Presbyterie, and ther Commissioners endeavours with all meeknesse, and all faire meanes and wayes that could be thought upon essayed, she doth most obstinately continew in a wilfull refusall to hearken to any conference, not condescending so much as to give or heare a reason from us, concerning what trutthes she hath cast off, and the errors which she hath embraced: wherfore the Presbyterie being bound in conscience to use all lawfull meanes for preventing the lyke tendernes to others, and having privately and publickly called for her, and called on the name of God on her behalf, when they could not prevaile, that no meanes appointed by Jesus Chryst should be neglected, doe ordaine the said Christian Miller to be excommunicated, and appoint Mr. Johne Makgill to doe it in the kirk of Cuper.

It being found, by deposition of witnesses, that Adam Taite, (referred by the Sessioun of Balmirrinloch to the Presbyterie,) had most wickedly traduced Mr. Walter Greig, and laboured to weaken his ministrie, calleing him a betrayer of fowles, a scruffer of scriptures, and one unworthie of his place, etc.: all which he had denied till it was proven.

Lykewyse, it being found that the said Adam, with Marjory Jak, who had together broached many fould, vyle, sclanderous speeches against Mr. Walters wyffe; also, all which was proven against them, after they had denied the same. Therfor, the Presbyterie ordeines all the three [two] to appeare before the congregation of Balmirrinloch in sackclothe, and ther acknowledge ther offences, and declare ther repentance for the same.

Julij 22.—Mr. Johne Makgill reported that he had excommunicated Christian Miller, according to appointment. The Presbyterie ordeines her excommunication to be intimated throughout the severall kirks of the Presbyterie, and lykewyse to give notice therof to neighbour Presbyteries.

December 30.—William Thomeson, Anabaptist, with his wyffe Ifobel Webster, being called pro 3^o. and not compeiring, they ar appointed publickly to be summond out of pulpitt.

January 27, 1659.—Anent the distrest depofed minifters, it is to be taken to the ferious confideration of the brether.

February 10.—William Thomefon compeired, and professed that he was convinced of the erre of his defectione to Anabaptifme, wherto he had been, through ignorance, and by respect at that tyme, seduced, and was content to fubmitt to any way of fatisfactione for the removeing of that fcandall; as alfo, for the fcandall of his diforderly way of mariage with Ifobel Webfter. The Prefbyterie ordeines, that he fhall goe to the congregation of Cuper, wher he was dipped and gave offence, and ther present his child of four yeirs old to be baptized ther publickly before the congregation, to professe his faults foirfaid, and to promife ther (as he had done heere) to feek God for ftedfaftneffe heirafter; and his wyffe Ifobel Webfter was lykewayes appointed to declare her repentance, the foirfaid day, for her diforderly way of mariage.

Martij 10.—The Prefbyterie haveing heard of fome perfone makeing ufe of a child for cureing the Cruells, the Prefbyterie doth appoint the brether to inhibit perfones in that kynd; and, withal, that it be a reference to the Synod.

May 26.—George Smyth, bailye of Pittenweem, presents a fupplication for a contribution for fupplieing of ther harbory. It is recommendit to the feverall brethren. The contribution for Anstruther is firft to be perfyted, and then the reft of the contributions for Craill, Pittenweem, and Kinghorne, ar appointed to be collected.

Julij 28.—This day, Mr. David Raitt caufed call one James Lowdon, in his paroche, before the Prefbyterie, for fcandalous advyfeing with ane infamous woman anent his health; and he, being extreemly weightied therwith, the Prefbyterie doe appoint him to mak declaration of his repentance before the pulpitt, which he promifed to obey.

September 2.—[Mr. James Wedderburne younger admitted affiftant to his father at Moonfie.]

December 1.—Mr. James Makgill, minifter at Largo, defyred the Prefbyteries fenfe and certificat of the ufual praetife of the Kirk and Prefbyterie, of what was allowed to the reliets of deceafed minifters, that accordingly might be done to his mother, the reliet of our reverend brother Mr. Johne

Makgill, late minifter at Fliſk, who deceafed March 22, 1659. The Prefbyterie, haveing confidered the caſe, and tyme of the defuncts departure, find that, according to the uſuall pra&tiſe of the Prefbyterie in all tyme bygone, and a&ts of the Kirk, when a minifter dieth in Januarij, his reli&ct or executor gett the whole ſtipend of that yeir wherin he dyeth; and ſo to the reli&ct of Mr. Johne Makgill, who died March 22, 1659, wilbe due the whole ſtipend of this preſent yeir 1659, which the Prefbyterie doe advyſe and intreat theſe concerned in the payment to delyver unto her. And the whole præmiſſes are appointed to be certified to Mr. James Makgill by ane extract heirof, ſubſcryved by our Moderator and clerk.

Februar 23, 1660.—Mr. William Livingſtoun deſyred advyce of the Prefbyterie, Whether or not he might contract one Johne Murrey, whoſe father was alive, the ſaid Johne not haveing a teſtimoniall under his fathers hand, declareing his conſent to the mariage? The Prefbyterie, finding that he was only a naturall ſonne, and that the place of his fathers reſidence was remote at Dunfreiff, and that now ther was ſome hazard in travaileing, thought he might goe on to marry him if no other thing were excepted.

Junij 21.—It was motioned alſo, anent the Thankſgiveing for the great delyverance wee have had by bringing our governement eſtabliſhed in our King; and it being repreſented, that beſouth and benorth us they have bein about this, the bretheren, confidering that our neighbouring Prefbyteries hes not as yet gone about it, think it therfore expedient to correſpond with them the nixt Weddenſday: Mr. William Row is appointed for that effect, and to report this day 8 dayes, which they have appointed therfore to meett. He hath alſo in commiſſion, to ſhew to them the changeing of the mercat of Auchtermuchty from Monday to Twesday.

The brether appointed to draw up the oath which ſhould be put to Sir George Morifon, [it] was preſented and reade in his heareing: He is ſummond *apud acta* to appeare this day 8 dayes.

I, Sir George Morifon, doe ſolemnely proteſt and ſweare by the moſt holy and dreadfull name of the eternall and everliveing God, that I never had at any time, nor in any place, carnall dealeing or copulation with Jonet Hamiltoun, ſometyme ſervant to my wyff; nether am I the father of the child brought forth by her, as ſhe alledges. And this, upon the foirſaid great oath, I doe declare to be of truth, in preſence and ſight of the alſeing God, the ſearcher of hearts;

and that, as I shalbe answerable to his most gloriouse Majestie, upon the fearfull hazard of my sowles everlasting condemnation in that dreadfull day wheirin Chryst Jesus shall come to judge the world, and call me to ane account for the integretie of my heart, and for truthe and ingenuitie of my words and declaration in this particular.

Mr. Alexander Balfour craved advyse anent a man who had lived in his parish 6 or 7 yeirs unblameably; but the Seffioun, willing to be cleired concerning him, defyred him bring a testimoniall from the place of his former abode, which they did receive, beareing in it that a warlaw¹ condemned had delated him as being als guilty as himselfe; but it was lyke-ways knowne that he had malice at him, as was declared. Mr. Alexander shew that he had not communicat since he was his parishioner; but now being desyrous to comunicat, Mr. Alexander craveth advyse from the Presbyterie, whither or not he might be admitted.

Junij 28.—Mr. William Row reported, that the Presbyterie of San&-andros had concluded anent the Thankfgiveing, that it should be on Thursday, for that the Lord hes bien pleased to grant such a delyverance to our King, without blood, in such an unexpected way. The Presbyterie resolves to observe that day with als great thankfulnesse, joy, and gladnesse, as possibly can be.

September 20.—This day, a number of copies of the Kings Majesties Lettre direct to the Presbyterie of Edenburgh, and appointed to be communicatt to the rest of the Presbyteries of this kingdome, werre sent hither by Mr. James Wood; a copy was judicially reade in the Presbyterie. The rest of the copies destribute to the severall Bretheren, who heard and received the same with great joy, contentment, and abundance of respect as was fuitable. They took to advyse what to say while we meett at the Synod.

The Presbyterie recenting ther severall Seffiones to be so tedious and long, that Bretheren ar extreameley wearied and keeped so late, they have not sufficient tyme to repaire home, doe recommend the Bretheren ther avoydeing of neidleffe debateing about matters of finallest importance; neither interrupting one another in giving ther judgement; but that they expresse themselfes in due tyme and order: And that everie purpose already tabled be proponed by the Moderator, none of the rest speaking till

¹ *Warlock*; a wizzard.

they be by him requyred. Then, that in the way of deliberation, everie member, as he shalbe defyred, utter his judgement breiffly, with the reason or reasones therof, in a perspicuous concludent manner, all keipeing filence, giveing attendance, forbearing private conference, whispering, in the meane tyme. Then if ther be difference of judgement in the dispute, that the matter be, by the Moderator, put to a decisive voice, and the question stated in breiffe termes, unto which everie one shall answere, not altering the words therof; and that none may have occasione to conceive himselffe neglected in the deliberation, everie member before voiceing be heard to speake his mynd, upon libertie asked and given, but that none in tyme of voiceing mak interruption. And ordeines, that whosoever shall faile in thes or any of thes, that he be removed and censured.

The Brethren ar removed to be censured, and ar approven.

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